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OPINION METER
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INSIDE

BUSINESS

The once-sexy iPhone is starting to look small and chubby.

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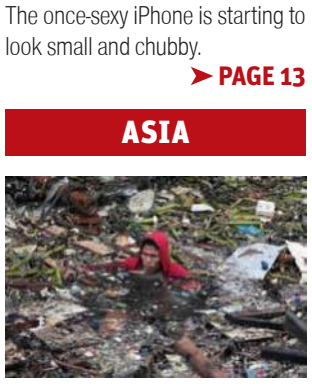
ASIA



A typhoon dumps torrents of rain in the Philippines, killing seven.

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LIFE & STYLE

Art was the subject but the Duchess of Cambridge was the star.

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DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS

No 72 hours for Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz announced yesterday that Tinian Mayor's Office employees won't go back to 72 work hours biweekly from the current 64 hours because there are no funds available to cover the additional eight hours beginning July 29 up to Sept. 30.

Dela Cruz

Then acting governor Eloy S. Inos, in a July 26 memo, said no department or agency may increase work hours if fund balances are insufficient to cover the additional eight working hours for the remainder of the fiscal year.

This Friday is supposed to be a working day for government employees if agencies have sufficient lapsed funds to cover the

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Another Covenant member removed from Cabinet post

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked for and received the resignation of his deputy special assistant for administration, Joseph "Joe" C. Villagomez, acting vice

Fitial

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NEARLY DONE
Construction worker Ricardo Coper of the 3K Corp. puts the finishing touches on one of the lightings for the soon-to-be unveiled Leadership Courtyard project in Chalan Kanoa. Initiated by the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, the undertaking is scheduled for a ribbon-cutting in September.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Election board lacks 3 members

»One commissioner's term soon expiring

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission's board of directors lacks three members and is expected to lose another member before the November election—vacancies that could negatively impact the conduct of a smooth election if appointments are not made soon.

The commission's board is a nine-member body composed of five representatives from Saipan and two commissioners each from Rota and Tinian, all of whom serve four-year terms.

The board currently has two vacancies for Saipan after the resignations of Elizabeth Aldan and Jose Itibus, while the position of Tinian commissioner has been vacant following the expiration of Don Hofschneider's term last year.

Commission executive direc-

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Slim chance for 3 Fund initiatives to make it to ballot. PAGE 2
Suspended lawyer arrested for alleged domestic violence. PAGE 3

Local

Slim chance for 3 Fund initiatives to make it to Nov. ballot

- **Manglona urges House to pass measures before Aug. 8 deadline**
- **Initiatives still with panel, House no plan to vote on them**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Three Senate legislative initiatives seeking to help prolong the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan beyond two years now have a slim chance of being placed on the Nov. 6 ballot because the House Ways and Means Committee to which they were referred to is not about to make a report—just days before the Aug. 8 deadline for filing legislative initiatives.

But Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday the House or its committees can always make last-minute amendments to the initiatives to address their concerns rather than let the measures die, at a time when the Fund is in dire need of financial assistance.

Acting House speaker George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday he has yet to check with the committees reviewing the Senate initiatives and bills seeking to help the pension agency.

Camacho confirmed that these measures are not on the agenda of the House's rescheduled session.

Manglona said the House should pass the initiatives to have them placed on the ballot and allow voters to decide on their fate.

The Senate president reminded House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) on Monday about the Aug. 8 deadline and the lack of vote on three Fund initiatives and one bill that he describes as "important revenue-generating measures."

Manglona

Basa

"I further urge the House to review the foregoing Senate initiatives and act on them before Aug. 8, 2012, which is the deadline for the Commonwealth Election Commission to accept legislation to be placed on the ballot at the November 2012 election," Manglona said in a three-page letter to Cabrera, a copy of which was provided yesterday by the Senate president's office to the media.

Manglona was referring to Senate Legislative Initiative 17-13 Senate Draft 1, SLI 17-14 SD1, SLI 17-15, and Senate Bill 17-93.

The Senate passed these measures last year and they have remained with the House since then.

SLI 17-13 SD1 seeks to transfer the disposition and management decision of public land golf course leases to the Fund, while SLI 17-4 SD1 provides the transfer of funds from the Marianas Public Land Trust to the Fund.

SLI 17-15 seeks to set aside 25 percent of government revenue to pay the government's employer contribution to the Fund. SB 17-93 designates certain unoccupied public lands and buildings to the Fund for its investment.

The speaker referred the three initiatives to Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan) Committee on Ways and Means, and the bill to Rep. Joe Palacios' (R-Saipan) Committee on Natural Resources.

Basa, in an interview yesterday, said he has yet to see Manglona's letter to the speaker but that any major plan to help the Fund should not be unilaterally decided by one chamber or just by one branch.

"The committee looked at the three initiatives and felt that they have major impact. For example, setting aside 25 percent of the government budget to the Fund—the committee finds it impractical. The [initiatives] have wide-ranging impacts," Basa said.

He said the Ways and Means Committee will have a meeting on Monday, and he will bring up the matter with members.

Basa said as of yesterday, the committee does not have any report or formal recommendation to the full House on what to do with the initiatives.

Cabrera, who has been off-island since June, earlier told reporters that the Senate legislative initiatives are not likely to help solve the Fund's problems.

But Manglona, in his letter, said the first two measures provide benefits to stimulate the economy and a constitutional mechanism by which government obligations are directly paid to the Fund.

The 99-year lease provision for golf courses in SLI 17-13 is an economic incentive and a response to public outcry for the creation of economic opportunities in the CNMI, Manglona said.

"If not these measures, what other options do we have to save the Retirement Fund? We have run out of money. There is no money in the general fund to give Retirement. Maybe if we pass these initiatives and other revenue generating measures the Fund can be rehabilitated. As I stated in my letter dated Nov. 15, 2011, to you and our colleagues at the Legislature, we need to think outside the box," Manglona told Cabrera.

'Measures could be amended'

Manglona said with regard to MPLT's concerns on SLI 17-14 SD1, a simple amendment could be inserted to restrict the use of the funds to investment or pension payouts. The measure redirects MPLT interest income from the general fund to the Fund.

"Further, SLI 17-14 can be amended to change the quarterly distribution to an annual distribution as recommended by MPLT," he added.

The Senate president said if the language is embedded in the NMI Constitution, "there will be no discretion among legislators as to the appropriation of such funds," making sure they automatically go to the Fund.

Over 6,000 retired and non-retired members and beneficiaries are dependent on the Fund's survival. Including their family members, the number could be close to 20,000 people dependent on the Fund's survival.

Manglona also said SB 17-13 creates economic potential for the Fund by authorizing the Fund to lease golf courses for 99 years for at least $50 million, whereas current golf course leases run from 15 to 40 years, depending if new or extended.

"If golf course leases were for 99 years, [the] Retirement Fund could potentially gain tens of millions of dollars…Subsequently, this economic activity and jobs will generate new taxes and revenue for the CNMI. However, if the 99-year lease is too long, the initiative can be amended to reflect a shorter lease term," the Senate president told the House speaker.

Manglona also said an amendment could easily be made to restrict the use of the funds for pension payouts only.

THE CNMI'S PRIDE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band performs at the London Celebration Music Festival on Friday. The band brought new pride to the Commonwealth after it a bagged silver award at the event. The London Celebration Music Festival is part of the 2012 Olympic Games. The Manta Ray Band is among the few bands handpicked to perform at the Summer Olympics. The young musical talents from the CNMI are also invited to perform at Westminster Abbey, Queen Elizabeth's Conference Center, and a torch ceremony in Central London. A 30-minute bonus show is also scheduled at the Olympic Park.

Terminated DPW employee sues

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A long-time employee of the Department of Public Works who was terminated from his job after being arrested on "ice" trafficking charges has sued DPW and the CNMI government for allegedly refusing to reinstate him despite the dismissal of his case.

Sylvan M. Cabrera also named as co-defendants then DPW secretary Martin C. Sablan and the Civil Service Commission.

Cabrera, through counsel Joe Hill, is suing Sablan for violation of his civil rights and abuse of power. He is suing Sablan, DPW, and the commission for failure to act pursuant to the Commonwealth Administrative Procedure Act.

The plaintiff asked the Superior Court to declare that the court's March 4, 2011, order dismissing his criminal case makes it mandatory for DPW and the commission to reinstate him with benefits and pay, retroactive to the date of suspension.

Cabrera is also demanding payment for damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Alternatively, Cabrera is asking the court to give him the opportunity for a full hearing on his claims and appeal before the court, DPW, and the commission.

Members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force used a cooperating source to buy $100 worth of "ice" from Pedro Rediall Demapan.

It was Cabrera, however, who allegedly showed up at the agreed meeting place—the parking lot of a store in Chalan Kanoa. Cabrera was aboard a car and allegedly handed the "ice" to the cooperating source.

In February 2011, Demapan pleaded guilty and was subsequently sentenced to two years in prison without parole.

On March 4, 2011, associate judge Perry B. Inos dismissed without prejudice the case against Cabrera after the Office of the Attorney General moved to drop the charges.

Dismissal without prejudice is when a case is dismissed but the plaintiff is allowed to re-file a new suit on the same claim in the future.

In his lawsuit, Cabrera said he has been employed with DPL for more than 12 years and that his most recent position was that of a trades mechanic helper.

On July 16, 2010, Cabrera was arrested in connection with the "ice" trafficking case.

Hill said that during a meeting with Cabrera and his family with a DPW administrative staff at the DPW secretary's office on July 28, 2010, Cabrera was given a notice of adverse action for termination predated July 20, 2010.

Hill said the ground for termination was reports about Cabrera's alleged involvement in "ice" distribution.

Cabrera refused to sign the notice, saying he has not committed any criminal violation.

Cabrera later appealed his termination to the commission, which according to Hill failed to hear the appeal but issued a denial of hearing.

Hill said that, on March 4, 2011, Cabrera met with then secretary Sablan and the administrative staff and showed them a copy of the dismissal of the criminal case.

Hill said Cabrera informed Sablan and the administrative staff of his desire to return to work.

The lawyer said that DPW and Sablan failed and refused to reinstate Cabrera after that meeting.

On March 8, 2011, Cabrera also served copies of the dismissal order on the Office of the Personnel Management and the commission.

Hill said Sablan and DPW have not promulgated administrative rules and regulations in compliance with constitutional standards of due process in compliance with the Commonwealth Procedure Act.

Suspended lawyer arrested for alleged domestic violence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

Suspended lawyer Antonio M. Atalig was brought to the Superior Court yesterday morning after being arrested on Sunday for allegedly assaulting his two minor children and threatening to kill them and their mother.

He was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, child abuse, and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at $25,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 6; arraignment will be on Aug. 13.

Wearing an orange inmate jumpsuit, the 55-year-old Atalig walked slowly to the courtroom of Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho and was escorted by a Corrections officer and a court marshal.

As he sat by the defendant's table, Atalig asked Camacho that his handcuff be removed during the bail hearing. The judge directed the Corrections officer to do so.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Suspended lawyer Antonio M. Atalig emerges from the courtroom with a corrections officer and a court marshal after yesterday's bail hearing in the Superior Court. Police arrested Atalig on Sunday for domestic violence.

Police said the incident happened at Atalig's residence in Papago on Sunday at 1:15pm.

Cepeda said that when the officer arrived at the house, Atalig's wife and two minor children met him. According to the wife, Atalig told her that he does not want them anymore and that they should leave him as he is going to kill them all.

Atalig also allegedly yelled at the two children to leave the house or he would kill them, prompting the children to cry.

According to the wife, Atalig grabbed a PVC pipe and was about to hit his 10-year-old daughter with it but she held on to the pipe.

Atalig then allegedly slapped his daughter on the right cheek. He allegedly swung the pipe, hitting the left part of her body.

Atalig then allegedly threw a rock at his 9-year-old child, but missed. Atalig picked up another rock, but did not throw it because his wife came out from the house.

The wife started yelling at Atalig that she's calling the police. Atalig walked away.

The responding police officer arrested Atalig at 2pm that same day. While transporting him to the Department of Corrections, another police officer detected a strong odor of an alcohol in Atalig's breath.

Police did not mention whether the child was injured.

In response to Camacho's questions about his financial status, Atalig said he has no job as the court had suspended him from practice and that he has no other means of income.

This prompted Camacho to appoint chief public defender Adam Hardwicke to serve as Atalig's counsel.

Camacho denied both of Hardwicke's motions to release the defendant on his own recognizance and to reduce the bail to $9,250, expressing concern about the safety of Atalig's wife and the children.

Camacho noted that based on the allegations, a metal pipe was used and that Atalig allegedly made threatening words to kill his family.

Camacho also raised concerns that there were past allegation that Atalig set his house on fire during a fight with his wife.

Police arrested Atalig in 2003 for allegedly burning his house in Papago. The fire razed the house's second floor. He pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of disturbing the peace and was sentenced to two days time served in jail.

In May 2012, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman suspended Atalig and attorney Reynaldo O. Yana from practicing law in the CNMI for refusing to return $1.1 million in attorneys' fees that the two obtained from the Angel Malite estate.

Woman injured after alleged beating

A woman was injured after her boyfriend allegedly beat her up, threatened to kill her, and pointed a machete at her on Friday in Dandan.

Ramon R. Agulto, 37, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Police said the victim sustained scratches and bruises on the right arm and chest. She also complained of pain in the back of her head.

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed yesterday a $10,000 cash bail for Agulto's temporary release. Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 6 at 9am. Arraignment will be on Aug. 13 at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Darren Robinson said the government is extremely concerned with the possibility that the suspect will follow his threat of killing the victim.

Police detective John D. Cabrera stated in his report that two police officers responded to the Dandan baseball field on Friday at 5:28am after receiving a call about a domestic violence incident.

Cabrera said that when the officers arrived at the scene, the victim was seen sitting in the driver's seat of a car and was shaking.

Preliminary investigation showed that at 3am that same day, Agulto had insisted on leaving the house but the victim tried to stop him.

Agulto allegedly grabbed her hair, dragged her inside the house and was yelling at her.

The suspect also allegedly grabbed the victim by the neck, forced her to the ground and began punching her. She covered her head with her arms as Agulto continued punching her.

The victim begged him to stop but the suspect instead allegedly began kicking her in the body. He then left.

After the interview, the officers proceeded to Agulto's residence but did not find him there.

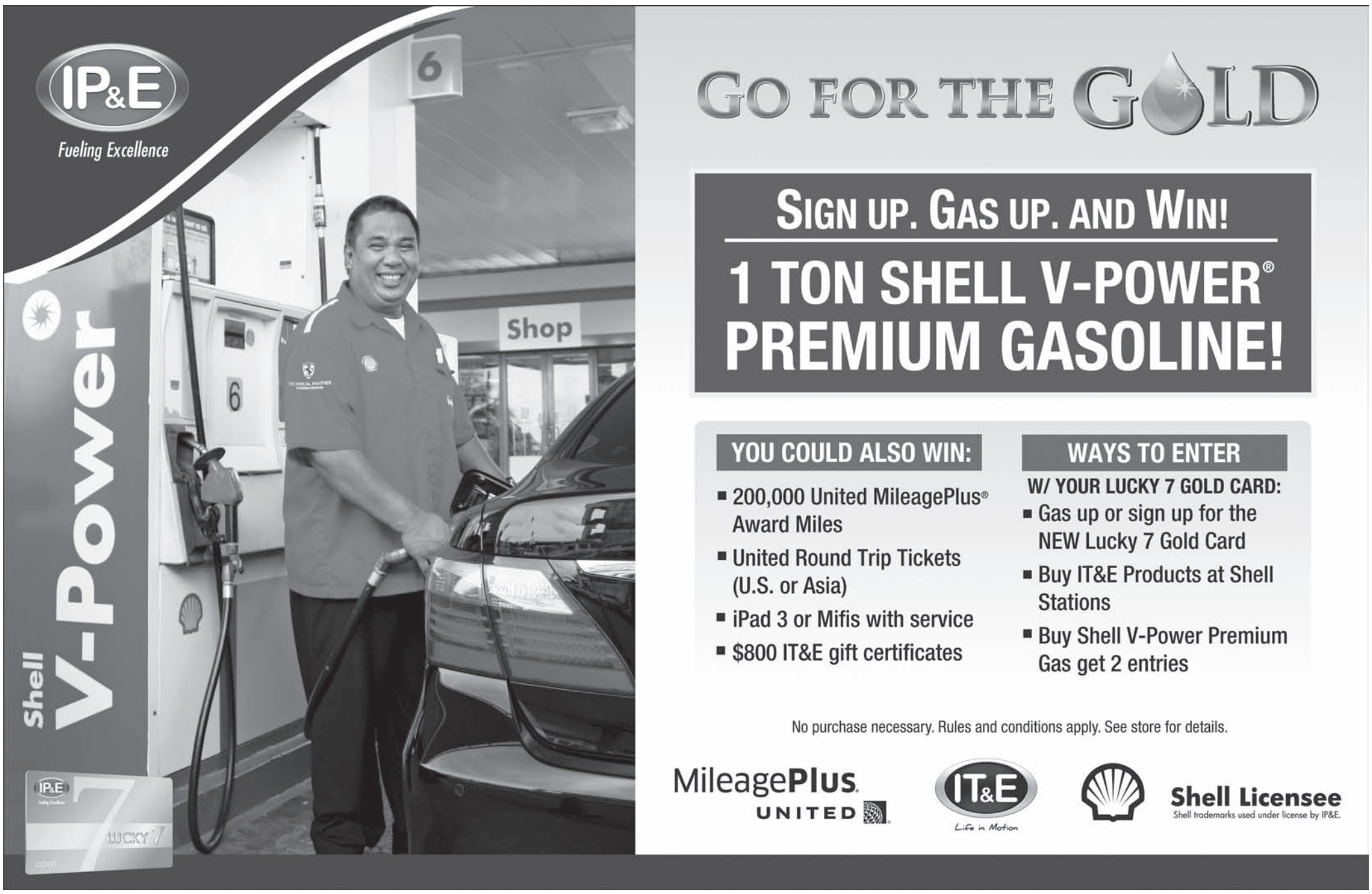
Later, at 11:41am that same day, two other police officers responded to Dandan after Agulto allegedly assaulted the victim again.

Police learned that when the victim was about to leave the house with two companions, Agulto blocked their vehicle and threatened to kill her.

Agulto also allegedly threatened to hit his girlfriend's vehicle from behind if he ever sees her going anywhere.

Agulto also approached the victim's vehicle and allegedly pointed a machete at her.

The victim told police that Agulto also assaulted her before in front of her children, mother, and other family members. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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House moves vote on initiative to cut number of lawmakers to Friday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting House speaker George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) cancelled yesterday afternoon's special session following a phone request from Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) to hold off the session until Friday so he can participate in the voting on key measures such as an initiative to reduce the number of lawmakers from 29 to 17 as well as a bill to transition to allow transition into the U.S. Social Security program.

Cabrera is expected to be back on Thursday, Camacho said.

Camacho said the House recognizes that Aug. 8 is the deadline for legislative initiatives to make it on the Nov. 6 ballot.

As of yesterday, there's no telling whether the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations' version of Rep. Joe Palacios's (R-Saipan) House Legislative Initiative 17-4 can muster two-thirds "yes" vote to pass.

Palacios said yesterday he's urging colleagues to support the initiative. Despite his misgivings on the committee's amendments to his initiative, Palacios said he still supports the initiative.

Camacho said on Monday he will vote "no" to the initiative. Others interviewed yesterday including Reps. Janet Maratita (R-Saipan), Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said they support reducing the number of lawmakers.

But they don't necessarily welcome the idea of increasing the number of years for each House member's term, from two years to four years.

Maratita thinks a two-year term is "sufficient enough" for the House.

"If it's an island-wide election and a four-year term, we should just have a unicameral legislature just like Guam… I do support reducing the number of lawmakers but not increasing the term for each House member," she said.

Villagomez, for his part, said raising the number of years each term to four could be part of a "give and take" since the number of lawmakers will be reduced from 29 to 17.

Santos said he supports reducing the Legislature's size because it would translate to cost-savings at a time when the economy is ailing.

"In addition, we are no longerr living during the times of pony express, rather, we are living with sophisticated technologies where legislators can reach their constituents easier and faster. Further, if we are to reduce the size of government, it should start from our house, the Legislature," Santos said last night.

Palacios' initiative originally just seeks to reduce the number of House Saipan seats from 18 to nine and calls for an island-wide election for the House on Saipan.

But the JGO Committee's substitute version also seeks to reduce the number of Senate members from nine to six, or from the current three senators per island to just two per island.

The committee also added a provision on a four-year term for House members instead of two years.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the "Senate is open to positively deliberate on proposals to restructure the Legislature."

Fitial OKs $13K for Rota casino commission

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed yesterday a local law appropriating $13,000 for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission's fiscal year 2012 operations, even as the island currently has no operating casino since Rota Treasure Island Corp. temporarily stopped operations in March 2011.

Rep. Teresita Santos' (Ind-Rota) House Local Bill 17-83 is now Rota Local Law 17-22. Santos said yesterday she's thankful for the administration's action on the bill.

Of the total appropriated amount, $5,000 will be for legal counsel, $7,500 for commissioners' compensation, and $500 for operations.

Commission chair Laura Manglona said the commission will decide on the status of the conditional license issued in July 2011 to the second casino investor—the owner of Rota Resort.

Former Commission executive director Alfredo Antolin reiterated on Monday that RCGC rules require "automatic revocation" of a conditional license if the casino investor fails to pay the $400,000 license within 90 days of issuance of a conditional license such as in the case of Rota Resort Hotel.

But Manglona said the commission has yet to make a decision on the issue.

HOSPICE CARE FORUM CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ruth Gurusamy, president of Guam-based Health Services of the Pacific-Hospice, standing right, makes a presentation for the Commonwealth Cancer Association and community stakeholders on July 27, 2012, on how to set up a hospice and palliative care program in the Commonwealth. The forum was held at the Commonwealth Health Center's administrative conference room. Gurusamy said the meeting created a nice roadmap on how to get the program started and to really make it happen in the CNMI. The hospice program is intended for those who have terminal illnesses that are given a prognosis of living for less than six months. Patients are referred to the program, which is run by a physician, a nurse, a social worker, massage therapist, transitional worker, or a priest.

NO

From Page 1

eight hours.

Dela Cruz said there are no lapsed funds for the mayor's office.

"I am sorry to bear this bad news, but there will be no work this coming Friday. No appropriation has been made to implement the 72-hour work (biweekly) announced by the central administration. Therefore, there are no funds to pay you. Only those agencies with sufficient lapsed funds can pay their employees for 72 hours. We have none," Dela Cruz said in a memo to mayor's office employees.

Sen. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Tinian) said if the administration's position is to give some government employees 72 hours, then he recommends that "everyone should be given their fair share. It is not right to exclude other employees especially with the high cost of living on Tinian and Rota."

But Inos' memo made it clear that only those with sufficient fund balances to cover the lifting of the eight-hour austerity for the rest of fiscal year 2012 should increase the work hours.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) said it makes no sense to announce a 72-hour work biweekly if it depends on the availability of lapsed funds at each agency.

"If there's additional funds provided by the administration, then that could have been the appropriate way to go back to 72 hours," he said.

Dela Cruz assured mayor's office employees that he's working closely with the Tinian Legislative Delegation "to ensure that all our employees will have an 80-hour work week as soon as the new [fiscal year] 2013 budget is passed."

The Fitial administration, as well as the House and Senate, is poised to restore full 80 hours biweekly starting Oct. 1.

Under a 64-hour work biweekly, many government employees do not report for work every Friday.

But because it's going to be 72 hours biweekly for agencies with sufficient lapsed funds, employees will now be also working every other Friday.

This Friday, Aug. 3, will be a work day. Every "payday Friday" will be the only "austerity Friday" until Sept. 30.

ELECTION

From Page 1

tor Robert A. Guerrero yesterday confirmed these vacancies to *Saipan Tribune*. He added that the term of the remaining member from Tinian, Jose Kiyoshi, is set to expire on Oct. 4.

Based on the local election law, the board needs five members to get a quorum with at least one representative each from Tinian and Rota. Without any representative from the two islands, the five members cannot conduct a quorum.

Guerrero admitted that nothing has so far been provided to the agency with regards to board appointments. He said that prior appointments were either withdrawn or declined by nominees.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has the sole authority to appoint members to the board, subject to Senate confirmation.

The mid-term election is on Nov. 6 this year and the board has to sanction plans and actions to be taken by the commission.

Guerrero revealed that based on law, the board can push through with the tabulation of ballots after election day even without a quorum provided there are five commissioners present on the tabulation committee.

However, he emphasized that all election results requires the sanction and certification of the entire board during a session.

"If no appointment and confirmation will be made after Oct. 4, the board cannot meet and certify the election results," said Guerrero.

He said the commission has already informed the Executive Branch about these vacancies and the constraints that might happen as a result of the lack of commissioners.

The six members currently onboard include chairperson Frances Sablan, Antonio Agulto, and Jesus Sablan for Saipan; Leilanie Manglona and Josepha Barcinas for Rota; and Kiyoshi for Tinian.

ANOTHER

From Page 1

chair of the Covenant Party's Precinct 3 club.

Villagomez's wife, Emma, is treasurer of the Covenant Party.

Their son, Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), has also remained with the party instead of following Fitial to the Republican Party. The younger Villagomez is seeking re-election.

Press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed late yesterday afternoon that Joseph Villagomez turned in his resignation through email on Monday. Demapan said he's not aware that the governor asked for Villagomez's resignation.

When asked for comment, Oscar M. Babauta, the 2012 campaign chair for the Covenant Party who was also asked by Fitial to resign in March, said it's "unfortunate" that another Covenant Party's loyal member has been asked to turn in his resignation.

"I could only assume that the midterm election had to do with him being asked to resign. It's sad it had to be this way. The Covenant Party officers and members will continue to support each other," said Babauta, Fitial's former Department of Public Lands secretary.

Besides Babauta and Villagomez, Fitial also asked for and received the resignation of Martin Sablan, the governor's former Department of Public Works secretary. Sablan is also an official of the Covenant Party and is running for a House seat.

Sources said the governor's letter to Villagomez is similar to what the governor told others he also asked to resign: "I have always believed that in order to fully achieve my administration's goals and objective, it is important to ensure that members of my Cabinet share the same principle as well. In this regard I would like to thank you for your service and contribution as [position]. I further seek cooperation that you submit a courtesy resignation to my office no later than the close of business…"

Election panel to print 17K ballots for mid-term election

»$79K budget for November election finalized

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission will print 17,500 ballots for the upcoming mid-term elections in November, according to executive director Robert A. Guerrero yesterday.

Guerrero also said the commission has identified a $79,000 budget for the whole exercise.

The number of ballots would only be adjusted if a large increase is seen after the deadline for voter registration in September, Guerrero said.

These ballots are expected to be picked up by the first week of September.

The overall election budget assumes that there will only be two legislative initiatives that will be placed on the ballot. Guerrero said that adding any more initiatives will call for a revision in the budget.

Saipan Tribune learned that the $79,000 budget for this year's election will come from two fiscal years' appropriation for the commission—$28,395 in 2012 and $50,651 in 2013.

The latter, he said, has been obligated for the ballot printing and postage stamps needed to send absentee forms to off-island voters. The budget for fiscal year 2013 has yet to pass the Legislature.

Like in previous elections, the commission will send staff to the Northern Islands days before election day for early voters, Guerrero said. This will save the agency from spending too much if it uses a charter flight to the islands.

Saipan Tribune learned that the cost of sending a charter flight to the Northern Islands on election day itself is $14,000 compared to doing an early voting, which would cost only about $7,000.

The commission has five full-time employees, including the executive director. With a limited budget this fiscal year, Guerrero said they managed to "squeeze" the funds and are confident it will sustain the needs for the election.

Three trainees from the Workforce Investment Agency, he said, are helping out until after the election.

Meantime, Guerrero disclosed that the agency will start sending absentee ballots by mid-September, but he pointed out that only those who asked for one will be getting the ballots. Every election, the commission generates a new list of requests for absentee ballots.

As of this week, the commission is working on translating the two certified legislative initiatives that will go on the ballot. Printing and publication of informational materials will follow.

Guerrero said the two initiatives are House Legislative Initiative 17-2, which seeks to make the attorney general an elected position; and Senate Legislative Initiative 17-12, which seeks to authorize the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents to revise NMC's mission statement.

FAMILY FUN DAY FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Students of the Nothern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service pose for a photo at their educational booth during the Ayuda Network's 20th anniversary's Family Fun Day celebration at the Civic Center in Susupe on Saturday.

Woman breaks into someone's house using axe

A woman believed to be mentally unstable broke inside a house in Chalan Kanoa by hitting the door with an axe on Sunday morning.

Flordiliza B. Phen, 39, put down the axe after a police officer repeatedly instructed her to drop the weapon, police said.

Phen was arrested for criminal mischief and disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $500 cash bail for Phen's temporary release.

A retired police officer told the court that Phen is his adopted daughter and that she is mentally unstable.

Camacho said the Commonwealth Health Center should conduct a psychiatric or medical evaluation on the defendant.

The judge set a review hearing on Aug. 15 at 9am.

Police detective Kevin R. Maratita stated in his report that Swingly Ringlen was at his residence when he heard a loud noise coming from outside the house.

When Ringlen checked, he saw Phen hitting the doorknob of his kitchen door with an axe. At the time, the screen door was already broken.

Phen then entered the kitchen where she continued hitting the door frame and sink with the axe.

Ringlen managed to get out from the house and called for police's help at Lao Market.

A responding police officer instructed Phen, who was still inside the house, to put down the axe. When she complied, she was arrested.

The report did not mention whether Ringlen and Phen know each other. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Kios-ku project set for completion in two months' time

»Families, friends urged to attend upcoming meeting, join in honoring island leaders

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residents and tourists alike would soon witness the unveiling of a new island attraction after the Saipan Municipal Council disclosed yesterday that the Saipan Leadership Memorial Kios-ku project will be completed in two months' time.

Ray Camacho, chairman of the 11th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, urged the families of those who will be honored by the historical monument to take part in the council's meeting on Aug. 9, 6pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center for their final input.

The kios-ku heralds the pivotal roles played by scores of local leaders in the political advancement and modernization of the Commonwealth.

To date, a total of 336 names of local leaders will be honored in the courtyard, said Camacho, all of them having contributed to the economic and social progress of the CNMI during the Naval, Trust Territory, and Commonwealth eras.

Camacho said the committee for the project has tentatively endorsed a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 24, a date that still needs to be finalized with the families at the upcoming meeting.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Eleventh Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ray Camacho shows *Saipan Tribune* the list of appointed and elected leaders of the CNMI who will be honored in the new monument.

Only a few showed up at the last three meetings for the families, hampering efforts of the committee to decide on other matters relating to the project. Camacho said the Aug. 9 meeting is intended to gather a final input and last-minute checking of details with the nominees' families.

He described the ribbon-cutting in September as one of the most important celebrations for the community. The leadership courtyard will after all not only honor CNMI leaders but will also have educational purposes for future generations, he said.

In a visit to the courtyard yesterday, workers were seen putting mostly finishing touches on the project.

According to Camacho, the Kios-ku is considered the biggest municipal council project so far and the beginning of more projects for the community.

Saipan Tribune learned that funding for the project was sourced from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s community development block grant of over $400,000. This project was initiated by the 10th municipal council.

Besides the kios-ku project, the council also initiated other community programs such as the neighborhood watch, village revitalization projects, agriculture and farming, and adopt-a-highway program—all aimed to help ensure the safety and welfare of villages.

No salaries

Camacho revealed that due to the limited appropriation for the council's operation and personnel, members are currently functioning as volunteers because they are not being paid a salary, as mandated by law.

The council has a $67,000 budget for the current fiscal year—an amount lower than what Rota and Tinian municipal councils are receiving.

The proposed budget for incoming fiscal year 2013 allocates a similar amount for Saipan while the Rota municipal council is budgeted for $171,000 and the Tinian council, $145,000.

Camacho said he will continue appeal to the Legislature to increase the council's budget, citing the projects and functions it is performing.

Camacho said he has no problem with the idea of abolishing the municipal council, as proposed by some sectors, but since it is still existing and is functioning well, it should be supported.

Camacho, who is serving a second term, will seek re-election this November.

Limtiaco calls on Phils. consul general in Guam

The U.S. Attorney for Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, recently paid a courtesy visit to Philippine Consul General to Guam Bayani V. Mangibin.

Limtiaco discussed with Mangibin the various programs and areas of concern of the U.S. Attorney's Office, which includes criminal and civil prosecution, national security issues, human trafficking and cyber crimes, among others.

Limtiaco also emphasized the her office's efforts to reach out to the various stakeholders in the community and expressed appreciation for the Consulate General's continued support and participation in the USAO's outreach activities.

In return, Mangibin thanked Limtiaco for taking the time to visit the Consulate General and for truly reaching out to the community, including the members of the consular corps on island. He likewise mentioned that one of the priorities of the Consulate General is also to reach out and empower the community by providing much needed information to them. He also expressed anticipation of a closer working relationship with the USAO toward the latter part of the year as the Consulate General in Guam assumes consular jurisdiction over the CNMI upon the closure of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan. ***(USAO)***

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, second from right, was accompanied by USAO national security specialist Joe Quitano, extreme right, while Philippine Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin, center, was joined by Consul Edgar Tomas Auxilian, second from left, and Vice Consul Maria Paz Cortes, extreme left.

Healthcare corporation hires 10 new nurses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has hired 10 new nurses to help augment the shortage of nursing staff in key units at the public hospital.

Nursing director Leticia Reyes confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that 10 new nurses will officially report for work today, Aug. 1, at the Commonwealth Health Center. They are all nonresident workers who were recruited locally.

Reyes said the new employees were part of the first batch of candidates interviewed by the corporation in April to immediately fill the first nurses who quit their posts early this year.

CHC has been losing several nursing staff since December due to uncertainties at the public hospital. From 167 nurses, the staff count is now down to 138 as of yesterday. Majority of these nurses are nonresidents recruited from the Philippines.

Prior to the hiring of the 10 new employees, U.S. citizen nurses were also hired last month, immediately replacing some vacant nursing positions, Reyes said.

Eight nurses resigned in a span of a week last month due to uncertainties in their retirement contributions.

With 10 new nurses, this will boost the nursing workforce to 148.

Reyes admits, however, that the nursing shortage remains a big concern at the public hospital because many nurses were oftentimes asked to work additional hours to cover for vacant positions.

As a result of this shortage, the corporation's overtime cost jumped from about 1,000 hours to over 1,400 hours biweekly. Reyes vowed to reduce the overhead cost once additional hires come in.

Reyes aims to fill all 167 FTEs at the soonest possible time but readily concedes that this will not be easy due to the challenges of hiring off-island candidates.

Reyes hopes that the 138 nurses at CHC right now will stay on and keep their jobs to prevent any major impact on healthcare services at the hospital. She said recruitment is ongoing for the vacant positions and they plan to recruit from outside the CNMI.

Due to lack of manpower, CHC oftentimes exceeds the standard 5:1 patients-to-nurse ratio, sometimes by up to seven patients per nurse per shift, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting

The Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will be conducting their monthly meeting on August 14, 2012, at 10am at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office on Beach Road, Garapan. For more information contact Diane Gabaldon at 256-3320. ***(PR)***

TES kindergarten enrollment

Kindergarten registration at Tanapag Elementary School has started and will run up to Aug. 3, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, at the main office of the school campus. There will be only 20 slots for kindergarten. It's a first-come, first-served basis. Requirements include a registration form, health clearance/ certificate, birth certificate, proof of guardianships, and map of residency. For more information contact the main office at 237-3162/4. ***(PR)***

Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at MHS

On Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, the Marianas High School Parent Teacher Association will conduct a Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at the MHS campus. The PTA invites all parents, students, teachers, and any other interested members of the community to meet at the MHS at 7:30am to help prepare the campus for the new school year. For more information, contact Bobbie Torres at 287-6463, Martin Dalsaso or John Davis at 237-3202/4. ***(PR)***

TOC lures golfers from Japan, Korea, and Guam

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
TOC director Ben Babauta, second from right, receives the $2,500 check donation from IT&E marketing manager Hans Mickelson, second from left, also in photo is marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala and product manager Veronica Acosta. IT&E will also be donating cell phones and other prizes worth $2,500 that will be used as raffle prizes.

Local golfers who will be teeing off at this weekend's Tournament of Champions will be joined by players from Japan, Korea, and Guam to heighten the event's excitement.

"The anticipation continues to build for this year's tournament, especially with many off-island players arriving this week to join us," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We have confirmed that 10 players will be joining us from Japan, one from Korea, and 30 from Guam. There will also be players flying in from Rota and Tinian for the tournament."

"The Tournament of Champions is well known in the region, and its popularity continues to grow every year," Babauta added.

According to him, more than 200 golfers are expected for the 17th Tournament of Champions, which will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 4 and 5.

Babauta emphasized that the two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $175.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place.

The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

Over $300,000 worth of prizes is at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes worth $50,000 on both the east and west courses courtesy of AON Insurance. The Bank of Hawaii also confirmed that it is sponsoring another hole-in-one prize of $20,000. Other hole-in-one prizes include a 2012 Ford Fiesta from Joeten Motors, a 2013 Hyundai Elantra from Triple J Motors, and a 2013 Toyota Venza from Microl Toyota.

Additionally, Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize, while Delta Airlines is also contributing business class airfares to the U.S. mainland as yet an additional hole-in-one prize. The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prizes for closest to pin competitions.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $500,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund which has gone directly to the improvements of the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2012 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530. ***(PR)***

PREL names Pacific Teacher Scholarship Award recipients

HONOLULU, Hawaii—PREL announced yesterday the names of the five winners of the 2012–2013 Pacific Teacher Scholarship, awarded annually to accomplished students who are currently enrolled in a teacher preparation program at an accredited college or university and who are residents of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands.

The scholarship is a competitive process; eligibility criteria include an intention to teach at a school in a U.S.-affiliated Pacific island and a good academic record with a minimum GPA of 2.5. PREL reviews all of the applications, personal statements, transcripts of grades, and letters of recommendation to reach their final decision.

The 2012–2013 scholarship winners are:

MELDIE JOY CABALES, GUAM: Cabales graduated from George Washington High School in Guam in 2010. She is currently majoring in early childhood education as a full-time student at Guam Community College. Cabales is dedicated to her career goal of becoming an elementary school teacher, with dreams of teaching in the primary grades at Carbullido Elementary School—the school she attended as a child.

RACHEL DUENAS, GUAM: Duenas was a full-time stay-at-home mom for 17 years and worked in daycare before deciding that her heart is set on teaching. She is currently enrolled as a senior at the University of Guam, pursuing her bachelor's degree in elementary education. Her long-term goal is to work at the elementary public school system in Guam and obtain a certificate in special education.

OMAR FAUSTINO, PALAU: Faustino is currently enrolled as a full-time student at Palau Community College, where he is pursuing his associate degree in education. He also works full-time as a fifth grade teacher at Melekeok Elementary School. He was motivated to go back to school after taking a special interest in teaching, hoping to not only become a better teacher, but to also make a difference in his village, Melekeok.

RHONDA JOHNNY, POHNPEI, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA: Johnny is from a small geographically remote village called Temwen on Pohnnpei Island, but that didn't stop her from attending the College of Micronesia-FSM, National Campus, where she is currently pursuing her certificate in education. Her goal is to eventually enroll in the University of Guam/College of Micronesia's bachelor of arts program in elementary education. Johnny would like to return to her remote community of Temwen with the knowledge she has gained to teach lower grades at the elementary level.

CORY KUSTIN, POHNPEI, FSM: Kustin is currently working toward his associate degree in education at the College of Micronesia-FSM, National Campus in Pohnpei. He has been a member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society since 2006, an outstanding student, and works part-time as a math, science, and technology tutor at the COM-FSM. Kustin's career goal is to be an elementary math and science teacher to share his knowledge and experience with the children of his community in Pohnpei.

PREL is proud to contribute to the educational goals of all of the 2012–2013 winners and wishes each of them great success. Check out PREL's Pacific Teacher Scholarship website or contact your local PREL office in January 2013 for the next year's application submission details.

If you are interested in donating to the effort, visit PREL's Pacific Teacher Scholarship website and click on *Donate,* or mail your donation to: The Pacific Teacher Scholarship Fund, PREL, 900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1300, Honolulu, HI 96813.

PREL is an independent, nonprofit corporation headquartered in Hawai'i, with offices in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. ***(PREL)***

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All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling

234-3925/7

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Chamber goes environmental today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its August general membership luncheon today, Aug. 1, 2012, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan in Garapan. Luncheon begins at 11:30am, and the meeting begins at 12pm sharp. Luncheon is $20 for Chamber members, $30 for guests and the public.

Chamber president Douglas Brennan will hand the August meeting over to the SCC Environmental Committee, co-chairmen Greg Moretti, executive director of the Pacific Maritime Resources Institute, and Ron Smith, owner of Angil Design, Inc., to introduce speakers who will focus on environmental issues.

Dr. Peter Houk, chief biologist for the Pacific Marine Resources Institute, will speak on "The Status of the CNMI's Coral Reef Resources," and John Gourley, principal/owner of Micronesian Environmental Services, will speak on "A Characterization of the 2011 Saipan Reef Fish Market."

Kaitlin Mattos, watershed coordinator for CNMI Department of Environmental Quality, will speak briefly on the upcoming Garapan Conservation Action Planning Workshop on Sept. 10-13, 2012.

Rebecca Skeele of the CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office will make a brief presentation on the upcoming National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center's three-day workshop titled "Climate Change for Coastal Communities" this Aug. 7-9, 2012.

The Chamber and the Environmental Committee will also announce the revival of the successful Cash for Trash program. Details will be provided where student and civic groups will clean designated areas of Saipan for cash.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private business organization in the CNMI. The Chamber has 170 members, and works to promote and protect the business, economic, and civic interests, and general health and welfare, of the islands. ***(SCC)***

NMC

College Access Challenge Grant program representatives, right, provide information about the CACG program to a participant at the Northern Marianas College's recent information session. Registration for NMC's upcoming fall 2012 semester will begin on Monday, Aug. 13, 2012. Learn more at www.nmcnet.edu.

Register for NMC's fall 2012 semester on Aug. 13

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's fall 2012 semester will begin on Monday, Aug. 13 and run through Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number during this week. Late registration is on Friday, Aug. 17, 2012.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

Note that the deadline to submit applications for admission to NMC for the fall 2012 semester was on Tuesday, July 31, 2012. Application forms submitted after the deadline will be processed for the following semester, spring 2013. Also, supporting documents (i.e., transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of a valid photo I.D.) must also be turned in within 60 calendar days of submitting the admission application.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Aug. 1: Student orientation for new and re-admitted students, 9am to 12:30pm (Rm. D-1)
- Aug. 8: Student orientation for new and re-admitted students, 9am to 12:30pm (Rm. D-1)
- Aug. 9: Student orientation for new and re-admitted students, 4pm to 7:30pm (Rm. D-1)
- Aug. 13: Registration for students with PowerCampus Nos. 000000100 through 000011900
- Aug. 14: Registration for students with PowerCampus Nos. 000011901 through 000015100
- Aug. 15: Registration for students with PowerCampus Nos. 000015101 through 000017660
- Aug. 16: Registration for all new, re-admitted and ongoing students
- Aug. 17: Late Registration for new, re-admitted and ongoing students

English Placement Test Schedule

- Aug. 7, 9, 14, and 16: 9am - 6pm, Building M
- Aug. 8, 10, 13, 15, and 17: 9am - 4pm, Building M

Math Placement Test Schedule

- Aug. 14: 10am - 12pm, Rm. A-9; 5pm - 7pm, Rm. A-9
- Aug. 15: 10am - 12pm, Rm. A-9
- Aug. 16: 10am - 12pm, Rm. A-9; 5pm - 7pm, Rm. A-9
- Aug. 17: 10am - 12pm, Rm. A-9

In addition, new or returning (re-admitted to NMC) students are required to attend the fall 2012 student orientation scheduled prior to registration. New or returning students who do not attend a student orientation will not be able to register for courses. To register to attend a student orientation or for additional information, contact Neda C. Deleon Guerrero, NMC Career Services Manager, at 234-5498 Ext. 1313 or email nedac@nmcnet.edu.

New students are also required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. After taking the placement tests, students can meet with their academic advisors, who will assist students complete registration forms and create class schedules. Students may register between 9am and 6pm Monday through Friday during registration week.

Ongoing students must obtain registration clearance at the Finance Office, the NMC Library and/or Office of Admissions and Records before they can register for classes. To find out if any holds exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus or call 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1540.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Fall 2012 semester, visit the Office of Admissions and Records or call 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1540, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Managaha beach site red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Managaha Island and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from the island had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from several locations on Managaha this week.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 1, 2000

BOE and BOR tie up to strengthen public education

In a move to further enhance public education in the CNMI, two of the Commonwealth's board of policy makers are eyeing closer collaboration through joint board meetings meant to maximize local education resources. The Public School System Board of Education and the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents have reached an agreement to begin formal joint board meetings aimed at improving existing educational programs in the CNMI. Joint discussions are eyed to pool resources and ideas to tackle some of the current challenges facing the education community, including personnel shortage, changes proposed by legislation, and the need for capital improvement.

Changes to retirement law opposed anew

NMI Retirement Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres yesterday maintained his strong opposition against a proposed measure that will allow former government employees entitled to a salary adjustment in 1991 the option to convert their entitlement to vesting service. Sponsored by Rep. Antonio M. Camacho, HB 12-126 was approved by both chambers last month and has been sent to the governor for his signature. According to Mr. Tenorio, the Fund's money belongs to its 5,000 individual members and are not considered public funds or general revenues of the government, thus, it cannot be used to appropriate salary increases.

Aug. 1, 2001

Senate probes CIP procurement

A review of the procurement process for Capital Improvement Projects is in the offing after the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation agreed to call for an oversight hearing that will take up the matter. During a meeting with members of the panel on Monday, Committee Chair Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano said that they were prompted to call for the oversight hearing after noting that the present procurement system for CIP projects seems to be engendering a number of problems. "We continue to see an increase in the number of protests during CIP biddings and we want to address this situation by looking at the procurement procedures, identifying any deficiencies it may have and then come up with a law that will streamline the process," Adriano said.

CNMI urged to tap Chinese market

The Northern Marianas should grab the opportunity in tapping the huge Chinese travel market, as the country starts reaching out to other nations in line with its globalization approach. A report submitted by various China-based travel agencies commissioned by the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino disclosed that the CNMI may be able to lure at least 700,000 visitors from China each year through charter flights. Tinian Dynasty Hotel Manager Tom Liu recently submitted to the Marianas Visitors Authority a set of recommendations gathered by travel agents in China.

Aug. 1, 2002

Some sample sites have high PCB level

Some sample sites identified by at least 17 red flags that stood on the soil within the PCB treatment site showed contamination above the maximum level allowed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Frank Ono, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' on-island representative, revealed these findings, saying further excavations would be done to ensure that those contaminated sites would be made free from harmful levels of PCBs. Ono made the disclosure as the Army Corps and its contractor negotiate for the ninth modification of the project contract, to include another soil excavation found to be contaminated with PCB, which is located along the road leading from Middle Road to the Tanapag cemetery.

$56K reallocated for Rota disaster relief

Responding to Rota's need for additional funds to rehabilitate the island, the Rota Legislative Delegation recently met with local Rota officials to expedite the reprogramming of $56,000 that would be used to help the island's agricultural sector. Senate President Paul A. Manglona said the delegation, together with the Rota Mayor's Office chief of staff, Efren Atalig, and Rota resident director for finance Vicente Atalig, met with Special Assistant for Management and Budget Ed Tenorio to discuss possible options to beef up assistance efforts for Rota. Delegation chairman Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig said that they have agreed to source $56,000 from the local funding to assist the disaster relief programs on the southern island.

Island Snapshots

INSTITUTE GRADUATES MONETH G. DEPOSA

The proud graduates of Northern Marianas Trade Institute listen to the speaker during their achievement ceremony last week on campus. The institute conferred certificates to 74 vocational students this year.

COOKING CONTEST MONETH G. DEPOSA

Nemencio Tulio of Fiesta Resort & Spa Hotel prepares his dish during the Saipan Next Top Chef Competition held Saturday at Pacific Islands Club. Four contenders vied for this year's title.
MONETH G. DEPOSA

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Marianas Resort & Spa's Emmanuel Pancha perfects his entry—pan-seared Angus beef with shallots and peppered mango sauce—during the competition Saturday. Pancha, a first timer in the contest, bagged this year's title as Saipan's Next Top Chef.

STOLEN! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This trailer advertising the Republican Party's candidates for Congress, the Senate and Representatives in the 5th Precinct was reportedly stolen, according to a party statement issued yesterday. The trailer was stolen at the intersection by the Santa Soledad Church. The GOP is calling on the public for help in locating this trailer.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to our baby girl Melia Ha'lani, who celebrated her special day 7/31. We love you always! Shout out coming from uncle BJ, mommy, Evan, Jalen, and the fambams.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

READING CHALLENGE MONETH G. DEPOSA

Tanapag Elementary School second grader Kiana Camacho, center, takes her chance at the "wheel of fortune" during the finale of the Dream Big Read summer program at the public library Saturday while library assistant Celina Foreman assists her. Camacho read 250 children's books during summer, which entitled her to some prizes and gift items courtesy of the program's sponsors.

FAMILY FUN DAY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Department of Public Safety fire cadets take part in Ayuda Network Inc.'s 20th anniversary Family Fun Day at the Civic Center Court in Susupe on Saturday.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Romney as foreign policy wonk

As he wraps up a weeklong trip to Britain, Israel and Poland that was designed to burnish his foreign policy credentials, Mitt Romney is offering a critique of President Obama's military and diplomatic policies that is long on bluster and short on detailed disagreements.

So far, he has provided mostly hyperbole, broad and vague criticisms, and cheap shots. In a speech Tuesday to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, for instance, he said that Obama had "given trust where it is not earned, insult where it is not deserved, and apology where it is not due." He revived the canard that Obama has been traipsing around the world apologizing for America and accused the president of lecturing Israel, undermining its position and speaking "as if our closest ally in the Middle East was the problem."

"If you do not want America to be the strongest nation on earth, I am not your president," Romney told the veterans. "You have that president today."

But the devil is in the details, and Romney was frugal with them. True, there has been some friction between Obama and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as there has been between American and Israeli leaders in the past. But Romney's indictment of Obama as unfriendly to Israel was almost comically over the top. No less deceptive was his suggestion that national security was threatened by "Obama's massive defense cuts," a reference to planned across-the-board spending cuts agreed to as part of last year's bipartisan deal to raise the debt ceiling.

Stripped of its exaggerations, Romney's speech yielded surprisingly few differences of substance. He played up the fact that he opposed Obama's decision last year to downsize the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan "during the fighting season." But he also noted that his goal for the future is to "complete a successful transition to Afghan security forces by the end of 2014"—the very plan Obama and NATO are pursuing.

Romney insisted that Iran completely cease enrichment of uranium, but the Obama administration and the U.N. Security Council also seek a "full suspension" of enrichment. (However, in recent negotiations the administration has focused on trying to persuade Iran to first halt production of its more highly enriched uranium, which is most conducive to weaponization.) Romney didn't say what he would do if Iran resisted this demand. In the past he, like Obama, has supported a combination of economic sanctions and a threat of a military option.

In deference to the (much-breached) tradition that political differences stop at the water's edge, Romney supporters had suggested that the candidate would use his remarks on the eve of his journey to spell out significant ways in which a Romney foreign policy would be different. We're still waiting.

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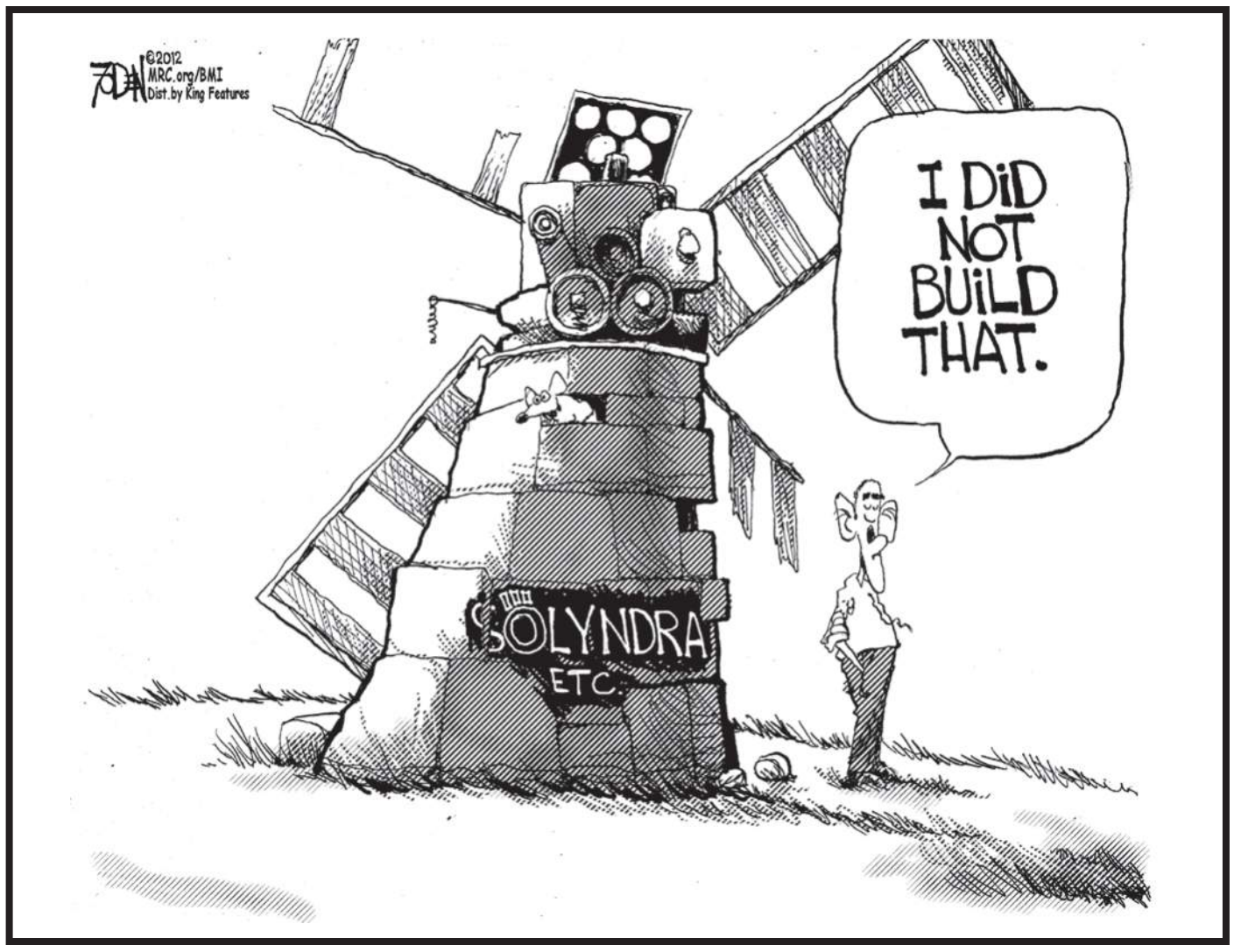


Ba Yi (8/01) for the PLA

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara teaches at Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.

August 1 is the culmination of my 67th year of existence. It is also the People's Liberation Army Day for China.

Last year, we celebrated our birthday on Saipan, got on a plane for Honolulu, and when I arrived, my sister and her husband took me to a restaurant where my daughter Michi joined us for another birthday celebration. Tired but twice celebrated, we did not complain.

The year before, we witnessed Don Farrell's organized education symposium on Tinian on the 65th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, and the significance of island's role in the culmination of the Pacific theatre of conflict.

Tinian is again seeing itself in the limelight of Pentagon's mission control as the Obama administration shifts images (the reality is something else) of U.S. Forces' presence from oil-rich Middle East to the current "containment" of Panda China.

The *Little Boy* of Hiroshima fame was put together at the same time I wailed my wah-wahs into the rice fields of Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, in the central plains of Luzon, the Philippines on the tail end of WWII. The *Little Boy*'s birth on Tinian was shrouded in secrecy, brought by the SS *Independence* that would itself fall prey to enemy attack. When *Little Boy* did announced its presence in a flash of light above the skies of Hiroshima six days later, some 60K voices uttered a forced communal "hai", with a few, saying, "amen", in total surprise and profound silence.

Little Boy became the first real horrifying instrument of mass destruction, and when we discovered he was our twin, we resolved to become an instrument of humane mass construction!

On this trip, I am wearing a Cape Cod, MA cap that longtime friends, the Turingans of Dallas, let me have to survive the August heat wave in Texas two years ago. I got some attention over it; most worn caps around here often identify a clothing boutique designer, announce the name of a sport team, or advertise car brands. So when I tell people the cap is from Harwich, MA, I get a gleam of envy. "Made in USA" is still a prized possession around here. I checked under the hood to make sure. It is "Made in China."

Napoleon Bonaparte's "don't wake the sleeping tiger" advice referred to Europe's fear of the Mongols that came knocking at its doors; actually today, the tiger is more of a frolicking oversized panda, represented by the PLA who has so far excelled, *inter alia,* in the physical sciences and engineering, on aerospace and weather forecasting, in emergency relief and crowd management. Happy PLA day!

Why we think it should be contained, only the imaginative Pentagon strategists can tell. That, or the ineffable Obama is pulling hilariously deceptive ruse to get our minds off the cost of oil wars in the Middle East and Central Asia. China as an aggressor has a louder roar than bite, and even in the Nan sha (Spratleys) situation where the Philippines, Vietnam, and Malaysia are claiming a piece of the oil find, China sends its Navy, offers the olive branch by inviting international drillers, and allows its civilian fleets to fish the region.

The panda only consumes choice bamboo shoots! That's if it is not slurping its noodles before it practices its Kung Fu!

One used to be able to distinguish a southern Chinese from a northerner. One goes by the size. From the south, lean and short, and north, tall and stout. Traveling in the north of Inner Mongolia in the middle of the summer vacation season, the presence in hotels and restaurants of "outsiders" are considerable. Not a few look like the depicted 10 riders led by Genghis *(Chinggis,* in Chinese*)* Khan in the park by his namesake in Hailer City, rotund and robust. The Mongolian cuisine offering is definitely cholesterol-rich, and the whole nation is undoubtedly heading in that direction.

China goes by with intense wishes of favorable luck and good fortune, big in all kinds of numerology. *Liu Liu,* which is 66, is a magical number of a sort. When we reached the end of our 65th year, we started living off the magical promise of *Liuliu* until we reached a year later. Then we shifted into the Gregorian calendar where we could be 66 for another year, though we were actually living our 67th year. Now that we have reached 67 years of age, we actually begin living our 68th year.

We have reasons for avoiding 67 in China. With 73 and 84, they are numbers for periods of critical transition. Mythology says that dire challenges prevail. From this perspective, being on our 68th allows us new breath and a sigh of relief! Har, har, har.

We are tracking the ecological condition of the northernmost prefecture of Inner Mongolia while enjoying the adventure until *Mo He*, our final destination, the town where China has so far recorded its coldest day of the year. That we are headed this way at the same time that domestic expenditure is encouraged is pure coincidence. Tourism in-country is experiencing its first boom year, which makes the diversity of fellow travelers most interesting (akin to Europe's *El Camino de Santiago de Compostella*), but the increase in traffic equally jacks the prices three times more than they are the rest of the year.

But having reached the end of our 67th year and the beginning of our 68th, this panda-size celebrant's choice is clear. Pass the normally 4R *pi jiu* (beer), now 10R, please!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Nanny vs administrative state

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

It isn't the "nanny state" (welfare) that I find difficulty fathoming as much as the creation of the "administrative state" being peddled by liberal progressives like President Obama. He's changed the landscape of American life from one ruled by a "government of laws" to a country ruled by "government of regulations."

I find this unsettling, not to mention political power peddling to reward his donors like Solyndra billions of dollars in taxpayers' money. In Obama's parade of mess, the most egregious aspect of it is the lack of some safeguard for taxpayers who pay for Solyndra's and other politically connected beneficiaries who took advantage of it. And the parade of failures of these companies is even more stunning. Would taxpayers ever see their money anytime soon?

Obama, more so than any other president in U.S. history, has issued 106 major regulations with an annual additional cost to the economy of $46 billion, according to research study by Heritage Foundation. "In 2010, economists with the Small Business Administration estimated that the total cost of America's regulatory burden reached $1.75 trillion—more than twice what Americans pay in individual income taxes."

Obamacare alone has triggered an initial deficit of some $831 billion, according to a Heritage Foundation study. The set of rules would push this figure much further as it is implemented over an eight-year period. Even now, there are 82,000 pages of federal regulations compared to 2,000-plus in 1936.

Congress played into the hands of this slow destruction by acquiescing to the emasculation of its authority. Giving up its authority in setting national policy is contrary to the vision of the founders of the U.S. Constitution. It is supposed to be the lawgiver, not an acquiescent escapee of its fiduciary duties.

It's granted by the Constitution "how to check and balance the predominant legislative power, to channel and contain personal ambition and factional interest, to restrain potentially tyrannical majorities and safeguard the rights of beleaguered minorities, to secure personal liberty and protect the rights of property." But it has pandered to the hands of liberal progressives, thus the towering mess further exacerbated by a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on Obamacare.

We must proactively defend first principles from the abusive rule of regulations. We'd like to ensure that our country isn't relegated to "administrative regimes" but protect and ensure citizens of their freedom in a democratic republic of limited government. My perplexity rises as I ponder how we would accede or genuflect to lordship from people we've never met and will never meet as they enforce rules they would have written that are as powerful as laws. Their decisions aren't subject to legislative or judicial review either. This is very troubling.

Nah, it isn't how the federal government would become a "nanny" state. It already is on its march per Obama's socialistic economic policies! Now, let's focus our collective effort to slam the brakes by ousting him from office this November. Obama's European model socialism must be stopped at all cost!

Must revamp various policies

The skyrocketing cost of pension programs and health coverage has forced state governments across the country into declaring bankruptcy.

Recently, five counties in California declared bankruptcy: Stockton, San Diego and San Bernardino while insolvency for others is just a matter of time. The culprit is the unsustainable level of compensation, pension benefits, and retiree health coverage. It did nothing but force fiscal trauma on counties, cities, and state governments.

This week, federal bankruptcy court has allowed counties, cities, and state governments to cut healthcare coverage for its employees, a welcome common-sense decision that allows governments to fix their budgets in the midst of loss or dwindling resources.

Unless major reform is instituted, the $320 million in unfunded liabilities would consistently balloon beyond our ability to pay. It takes strong political resolve to institute appropriate changes by commissioning real expert review of the pension program.

Against the tidal shift of revenue contraction triggered by the exodus of foreign capital from the islands in recent past, coupled by punitive federal and local policies that ruined what's left of the local economy, it's time to trump our cards and begin anew.

No one is going to do it for us. While the need for more money spirals upward, revenues decline concurrently. The depth of bankruptcy today leaves nothing but uncertainty and hopelessness. We must step in and change the course of this historic economic doldrums.

Building partnerships

The CNMI must brave bringing traditional farming and fishing beyond conventional wisdom into the fold. Indeed, there are a myriad of issues it must address and resolve before it takes a leap of faith to transcending the "what has been" into "what will be." Did you forget that these sectors gave the CNMI and Micronesia an economy before WWII?

It takes strong leadership with foresight to move farming and fishing to the next level. I maintain that this only requires serious organization with a firm sense of purpose. It needs bright and educated folks at the helm to move the issue beyond conventional wisdom. If farmers have survived it all through the years, they certainly could retreat to reassess their destiny for brighter tomorrows.

This should be done proactively given the likelihood of farmers from nearby Asian countries moving in to capitalize on the year-round weather for planting and harvesting fast cash crop. I've heard this talk already and only time would tell when they would make their move. In brief, they've been studying the potential of the islands for years. They even know our soil, time span out of the year for planting without the bother of inclement weather, among others. Let's do it, however gradual it may be.

A working relationship should also be established between local farmers and experts from the universities of the Philippines and Hawaii. Farmers should explore what both places have to offer by way of applied technology. It has worked well for their agricultural industry. There are a lot of opportunities but scarce entrepreneurs who are willing to take the proverbial first step. Shall we?

Mishaps and missteps raise doubts about Arctic drilling

By MARILYN HEIMAN
Pew Environment Group

Marilyn Heiman is director of the Pew Environment Group's U.S. Arctic Program. Readers may write to her at: Pew Environment Group U.S. Arctic Program, 1904 Third Ave., Suite 305, Seattle, Wash. 98101; email: mheiman@pewtrusts.org.

Oil industry plans to drill exploratory wells in America's Arctic Ocean got off to an inauspicious start recently, when a Shell Oil Co. drilling ship slipped anchor and drifted perilously close to the beach at Alaska's Dutch Harbor. A tugboat pulled the massive rig back into place, and the U.S. Coast Guard is investigating.

The mishap—along with a series of other troubling setbacks—raises a question that some of us have been asking for the past year: Are we really ready to drill in such a remote and risky setting?

Arctic conditions are among the most extreme on Earth, including hurricane-force winds, high seas, impenetrable fog, and shifting sea ice. Preventing an accident in such conditions is going to be far more challenging than anchoring a rig in the 35-mph winds and 4-foot seas reported in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, during the recent incident. If there is a spill in the Arctic, just getting people and equipment to such a remote location will be daunting: Dutch Harbor, 1,000 miles south of the proposed drilling site, is the nearest major port. And even then, there is no proven method of cleaning up oil in broken ice.

Fears of an oil spill have been countered by promises of robust prevention and cleanup efforts, as part of a bid to drill up to 10 exploratory wells this summer and next. But recent troubles beyond the grounding incident do not inspire confidence.

For instance, the Coast Guard has yet to certify the effectiveness and safety of such basic equipment as an oil-containment barge. Even at this late date, the Coast Guard has had to insist on fixes to the barge's electrical, piping, and fire-protection systems.

More worrisome still was a request that the Coast Guard lower the structural standards it had originally approved for the barge aptly named Arctic Challenger, from being able to withstand a "100-year storm" to a 10-year storm. If ever there was a place where preparing for the worst is prudent, it's the Arctic.

Similarly, the federal government has been asked to consider relaxing the drilling rig's air emission requirements because not all of them can be met.

These last-minute changes are why we need Arctic-specific standards that are written into regulations, not negotiated on an ad hoc basis and subject to change from project to project or well to well. We need rules backed up by laws that will be in effect longer than one drilling season. And we need measures that can stand up to tough Arctic conditions such as this year's unusually thick sea ice, which is wreaking havoc on drilling schedules and showing how unpredictable this region can be.

The recent near-grounding is a jolting reminder of just what's at stake. The Arctic Ocean is home to bowhead whales, walruses, polar bears, and other marine mammals found nowhere else in America's waters, as well as to millions of migratory birds. This unique ecosystem is central to the diet and culture of indigenous communities that have depended on its bounty for thousands of years.

We need the toughest standards to ensure that, if development takes place, this vital habitat and vibrant culture are safe from oil spills and other harmful impacts. But judging from the failures of planning and execution seen to date, we're not there yet.

Letter to the Editor

Stop 'paternalistic' attitude

Dear House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera: I understand from reading House Legislative Initiative 17-3 that the House would like to change certain Sections of Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution. This initiative, if passed, will reduce the blood quantum requirement of an NMD to "…a certain degree or at least 1 percent."

An integral part of the proposed amendment requires the involvement of the Superior Court: *"..in order to legally provide that a person who has less than one-quarter Northern Marianas descent blood and who is a citizen or national of the United States shall be deemed a bona fide person of Northern Marianas descent for all purposes under Article 12, upon providing evidence to the Superior Court.*

The above provision will become problematic not only to the Superior Court but also to a large number of citizens whose ancestors and parents are not NMD. Over the decades we have witnessed many non-NMD's marrying NMD's. We have a large number of students who graduate from high schools and have gone abroad (mostly to the United States) to gain higher education. Some of these young men and women would marry someone they meet while away from the CNMI. Generations down the line, they will be required to hire a lawyer, go to the Superior Court just to prove that he or she is NMD. We can look around and see a number of non-NMD's marrying NMD's. Who knows, maybe the Superior Court might require the involvement of the hospital to provide for evidential proof that the person who purports to be the owner of a property in the CNMI is in fact an NMD. Cumbersome!

While I personally appreciate the effort of our political leaders I feel that any proposal short of a complete repeal of Article 12 is delaying the inevitable. We must be cognizant of the fact that our people are intelligent and know exactly what they want in life. *We are talking about privately owned land.* We are undermining the integrity and intelligence of our people. We seem to be telling the private landowners that they are not capable of handling their own affairs. We must not continue to be "paternalistic" to the landowners.

We all know that many of our landowners today want to reign over their private property. Why are we afraid to let them manage their private land? Returning the unilateral right to every landowner is the correct way. Please pass an initiative to repeal Article 12 in its entirely and let us move on with our lives.

David M. Sablan Sr.
Papago, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

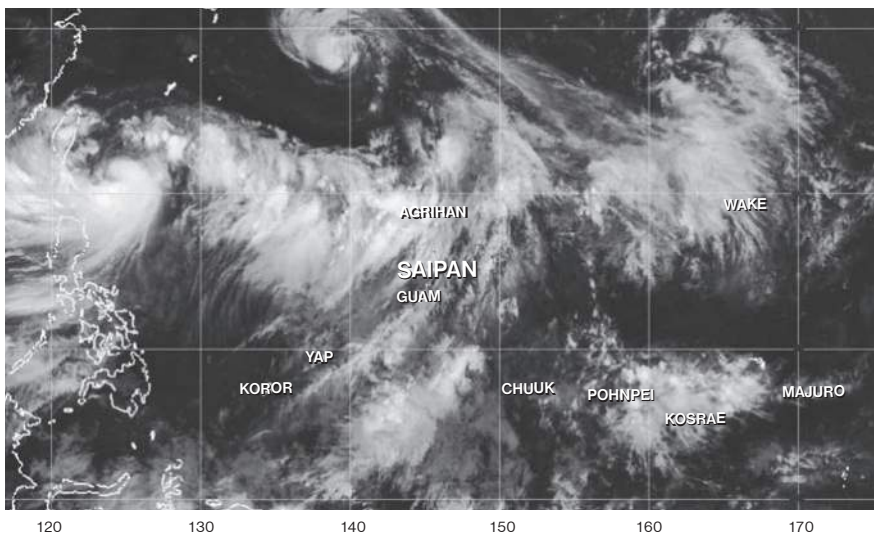
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲62	▼55
Beijing	Cloudy	▲77	▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲95	▼83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼61
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲58	▼38
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼67
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼78
Paris	Thundershowers	▲82	▼64
Pusan	Windy	▲87	▼81
Rome	Sunny	▲93	▼72
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼53
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼76
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲89	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough curves eastward from Tropical Storm Saola centered southeast of Taiwan at 21N124E across 130E at 23N to end north of the Marianas at 19N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southwest of Iwo To island within 200 miles of a line from 22N130E to 19N145E. Low-level convergence southeast of Tropical Storm Damrey centered north of Iwo To island at 28N141E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the far northern CNMI within an area bounded by 16N145E to 25N145E to 25N150E to 22N154E to 16N145E. An upper-level circulation centered northwest of Wake Island at 26N161E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 200 miles of a line from 18N157E to 25N165E. This area is just northwest of Wake Island. A weak surface circulation is centered between Yap and Chuuk near 5N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Guam within 150 miles of a line from 2N139E to 9N147E and within 80 miles of a line from 9N144E to 13N145E. A tropical disturbance southeast of Pohnpei is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Pohnpei and Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 4N159E to 7N161E to 8N167E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:39 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
6:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
9:07 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:55 PM	4:45 AM
Thursday	6:43 PM	5:45 AM
Friday	7:28 PM	6:42 AM
Saturday	8:10 PM	7:37 AM
Sunday	8:50 PM	8:29 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

iPhone appeal dims as Samsung shines

NEW YORK (AP)—The once-sexy iPhone is starting to look small and chubby.

That's become a problem for Apple, which revealed last week that iPhone sales have slowed. Part of the problem is that the competition has found a formula that works: thinner phones with bigger screens.

For a dose of smartphone envy, iPhone owners need to look no further than Samsung Electronics Co., the number-one maker of smartphones in the world. Its newest flagship phone, the Galaxy S III, is sleek and wafer-thin. It can run on the fastest networks and act as a "smart wallet," too—two things the Apple's iconic phone can't do.

Says Ramon Llamas, an analyst with research firm IDC: The iPhone "is getting a bit long in the tooth."

Apple has become the world's most valuable company on the back of the iPhone, which makes up nearly half of its revenue. The iPhone certainly has room to grow: Only one in six smartphones sold globally in the second quarter had an Apple logo on its back

When Apple reported financial results for its latest quarter last week, a new phenomenon was revealed: Buyers started pulling back on iPhone purchases just six months after the launch of the latest iPhone model.

Apple executives blamed the tepid sales on "rumors and speculation" that may have caused some consumers to wait for the next iPhone, which is due in the fall. But in the past, iPhone sales have stayed strong nine months after the new model is launched, then dipped as people began holding off, waiting for the new model.

AP

In this April 19, 2011 file photo, Samsung Electronics' Galaxy S, left, and Apple's iPhone 4 are displayed at a mobile phone shop in Seoul, South Korea.

In the April to June period, Apple sold 26 million phones, 28 percent more than it did in the same quarter last year.

Most other phone makers "would kill" for those numbers, says Stephen Baker, an analyst with research firm NPD Group. But since the iPhone's introduction in 2007, the average annual growth rate has been 112 percent.

The competitor that doesn't need to kill for those numbers is Samsung, which has solidified its position at the world's largest maker of smartphones. Analysts believe it sold just over 50 million smartphones in the second quarter, or nearly twice as many as Apple. (The company doesn't release specific figures.) Its smartphone sales have nearly tripled in a year, from 18.4 million, according to IDC.

Most of Samsung's sales comprise cheaper smartphones that don't compete directly with the iPhone. Its flagship phones, though, have emerged as the iPhone's chief rivals.

Samsung and Apple have a complicated relationship. They're rivals in the smartphone and tablet-computer markets, and are set to square off in a high-profile trial over mobile patents in San Francisco this week. Samsung is one of Apple's largest suppliers of chips and displays, and Apple is one of Samsung's largest clients.

Together, Samsung and Apple make half of the world's smartphones, and since competitors are losing money or breaking even, they account for nearly all of the profits in the industry.

Though Apple is known as a relentless innovator, the iPhone's screen has been the same size—3.5 inches on the diagonal—since the first iPhone came out. It was a big screen for the time, but among the competition, screen sizes have crept up.

Samsung has increased the screen size of its Galaxy series with every model since it debuted in 2010. The Galaxy S had a screen that measured 4 inches diagonally, and was followed by the S II, at 4.3 inches. The S III, the latest model, measures 4.8 inches. The screen is nearly twice as large as the iPhone's. Yet the Galaxy is slightly thinner than an iPhone—8.6 millimeters versus 9.3—and lighter—133 grams versus 140 grams.

Jury selected in trial over iPhone, iPad patents

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A jury was selected Monday to decide the merits of Apple Inc.'s claims that Samsung Electronics Co.'s smartphones and computer tablets are illegal knockoffs of the iPhone and iPad.

Lawyers for both sides were expected to deliver their opening arguments Tuesday morning in a San Jose federal courtroom, followed by Apple calling its first witness, a company designer. The witness lists of both sides are long on experts, engineers and designers and short on familiar names. Apple CEO Tim Cook, for example, is not scheduled to testify. Apple filed a lawsuit against Samsung last year alleging smartphones and computer tablets made by the world's largest technology company are illegal knockoffs of Apple's popular iPhone and iPad products.

Cupertino-based Apple is demanding $2.5 billion in damages, an award that would dwarf the largest patent-related verdict to date.

Samsung countered that Apple is doing the stealing and that some of the technology at issue—such as the rounded rectangular designs of smartphones and tablets—has been industry standards for years.

A jury of seven men and three women was selected to hear the case, which is just the latest skirmish between the two companies over product designs. A similar trial began last week, and the two companies have been fighting in courts in the United Kingdom and Germany.

Industrywide, some 50 lawsuits have been filed by myriad telecommunications companies jockeying for position in the burgeoning $219 billion market for smartphones and computer tablets.

U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose last month ordered Samsung to pull its Galaxy 10.1 computer tablet from the U.S. market pending the outcome of the upcoming trial, though she barred Apple attorneys from telling the jurors about the ban.

US, Germany stress cooperation to end euro crisis

BERLIN (AP)—U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and his German counterpart stressed the need for coordinated action Monday in the face of the eurozone debt crisis and faltering global growth, but left open what joint steps Europe and the United States would take to shore up the world economy in the coming months.

Geithner traveled to the German North Sea island of Sylt for informal talks with Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, before meeting later Monday with Mario Draghi, the president of the European Central Bank.

Geithner and Schaeuble praised efforts by Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Italy to turn their debt-ridden economies around, and voiced optimism about economic reforms meant to deepen integration among the 17 eurozone members.

The joint statement made no reference to Greece, which has struggled to implement the reform package agreed with its creditors. The country faces the possibility a chaotic exit from the common currency area if it fails to meet its bailout conditions.

Geithner and Schaeuble "emphasized the need for ongoing international cooperation and coordination" and stated that the U.S. and Germany would "continue to cooperate closely with their partners when advancing the policy agenda in autumn to further stabilize global and European economies."

The U.S. treasury secretary later met with Draghi for about an hour in Frankfurt. No statements were issued afterward.

Markets surged after Draghi said last Thursday that the ECB would do "whatever it takes" to preserve the euro. Over the following days, the leaders of Germany, France and Italy also said they would do all they can to protect the 17-country currency union—comments that Geithner and Schaeuble's "took note of," according to their statement.

Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at the Martin Smith School of Business at California State University, said the joint Geithner-Schaeuble statement did not offer any new solutions for the European debt crisis.

"The statement doesn't contain anything new," Sohn said. "What is important is not the joint statement but what the two officials might have discussed behind the scenes."

Sohn said that it was very likely that Geithner sought during his one-day visit to Europe to strongly encourage the Europeans to move more aggressively to deal with their debt problems.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan utility gets $12.8B nuclear crisis bailout

TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese utility that operates the nuclear power plant sent into meltdown by last year's tsunami says it has received a trillion yen ($12.8 billion) public bailout. Tokyo Electric Power Co. apologized Tuesday for the "inconvenience and anxiety" from the disaster at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant in northeastern Japan, and for raising electricity charges to cover the costs of dealing with the crisis. The company, now under government control, still faces massive compensation demands from those forced to evacuate and whose land and products were contaminated by spewing radiation following the disaster that began March 11 last year.

Levinsohn leaving Yahoo after second CEO snub

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ross Levinsohn, the interim CEO who was snubbed in the search for a permanent leader at Yahoo, is leaving the Internet portal. Yahoo announced the departure in a securities filing on Monday. With much fanfare, Yahoo appointed 37-year-old Marissa Mayer as CEO two weeks ago. Retaining Levinsohn, who had been interim CEO since May, would have been one of her first big triumphs.

Wal-Mart names former KPMG exec to board

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said Monday that it is adding the former international chairman of accounting firm KPMG to its board, effective immediately. Tim Flynn, 55, will become the board's 17th member and is also joining the audit committee. The move comes as Wal-Mart attempts to regain shareholder trust following a bribery scandal in Mexico. In late April, The New York Times reported that Wal-Mart's Mexican unit allegedly paid millions of dollars in bribes to speed building permits and gain other favors, and that executives didn't notify authorities even after Wal-Mart found evidence of the scheme during a probe dating to 2005.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,073.01	1,385.30	2,945.84
-2.65	-0.67	-12.25
-0.02%	-0.05%	-0.41%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9501	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7543	Philippine Peso	41.8900
British Pound	0.6365	Indian Rupee	55.7250	Singapore Dollar	1.2455
Canadian Dollar	1.0011	Indonesian Rupiah	9,455.00	South Korean Won	1,130.65
Chinese Yuan	6.3813	Japanese Yen	78.2405	Swiss Franc	0.9789
Euro	0.8149	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1445	Taiwan Dollar	30.0190
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2342	Thailand Baht	31.5600

Nation

Another hiccup? Romney's foreign trip not smooth

GDANSK, Poland (AP)—It wasn't supposed to be this way.

Mitt Romney outraged Palestinians on Monday, telling Jewish donors that their culture is part of what has allowed them to be more economically successful than the Palestinians. That fresh controversy on his visit to Israel came just days after insulting the British on what was intended as a feel-good visit to the Olympics in London.

Whether or not the trip changes votes back home, the effect hasn't seemed to be what Romney's presidential campaign had in mind.

His first steps onto the world stage as President Barack Obama's Republican challenger were carefully crafted to avoid political risk. He visited countries that are staunch U.S. allies, limited questions from the media and arranged made-for-TV appearances at symbolic venues in London and Jerusalem. It was all intended to demonstrate he was ready to handle foreign affairs smoothly and lead during dangerous times.

Instead, as he made his final stop of a three-nation tour in Poland late Monday, Republicans and Democrats alike were shaking their heads in the U.S. Though Republicans said they saw no lasting harm, Democrats raised questions about Romney's ability to handle delicate topics with sensitivity on foreign soil, even under the friendliest conditions.

AP

Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney places a prayer note as he visits the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Sunday, July 29, 2012

Romney's latest trouble stemmed from a speech he gave to Jewish donors in which he suggested that their culture was part of what has allowed them to be more economically successful than the Palestinians. Kind words for Israel are standard for many American politicians, but Palestinian leaders suggested his specific comments were racist and out of touch with the realities of the Middle East.

"Because it's billed as a layup—it's billed as something that should be simple—perhaps he let his guard down," said Hogan Gidley, a senior aide under former Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum. "You say, `Gosh, this guy is so scripted, the campaign is so disciplined, so smart, how could this happen?'" Still, he doubted that Romney would suffer any long-term effects among voters who are still undecided three months before the election.

Predictably, Obama's campaign was more critical, with senior strategist David Axelrod saying on Twitter: "Is there anything about Romney's Rolling Ruckus that would inspire confidence in his ability to lead US foreign policy?"

It's unclear whether voters in the U.S. are paying attention to Romney's stumbles, especially as concerns about the nation's economy dominate most Americans' concerns.

"I'd say it has the same impact as a stubbed toe," said Iowa Republican John Stineman, a marketing consultant in Des Moines. "People are still focused on the economy."

And Debra Hayes, a Republican-leaning independent from Denver, said Romney's overseas comments have no impact on how she'll vote.

"I'm interested only in the economy—jobs, and the prices of things," said Hayes, who is undecided. "We need to stand with Israel. And our president needs to show leadership overseas. But things are going downhill at home, and that's what matters."

Obama could be descended from African slave

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A team of genealogists has found evidence that President Barack Obama could be a descendent of an African slave—but not through the lineage of his black father, the most likely route researchers had followed and exhausted.

The link, genealogists with Ancestry.com said Monday, is, in fact, through an examination of his white mother's family history.

"We were surprised and excited to make that connection," said Joseph Shumway, a member of the Utah-based Ancestry.com team.

Obama's father was from Kenya and his mother was from Kansas. It had been generally assumed that the president had no slave ancestors because researchers couldn't find it through the lineage of his father. However, no one had yet performed any exhaustive research into the lineage of his white mother, who turns out to have a mixed-raced family history.

Ancestry.com now said the maternal line traces back to one of the first documented African slaves in the U.S.

The company said Obama could be the 11th great-grandson of John Punch, an African slave in colonial Virginia. He is believed to have had children with a white woman, starting a family line that led generations later to Obama's mother.

The White House declined comment Monday.

The Ancestry.com team used DNA analysis and marriage and property records to trace Obama's maternal ancestry. The company says it can't establish a definitive link because of gaps in family history. Researchers are missing a record connecting Punch to a presumed son who by his early 20s owned 450 acres and grew tobacco in Virginia.

The records pick up when a grandson of Punch petitioned a court to marry a white woman—and was turned down, presumably because the grandson appeared of mixed-raced heritage, said Elizabeth Shown Mills, a former president of the American Society of Genealogists.

The Ancestry.com findings make for a tantalizing tale that wasn't uncommon in early colonial Virginia, and the team probably got it right, Mills said.

"They did the best job possible," said Mills, who reviewed the findings at Ancestry.com's request.

Ancestry.com said its team spent two years exploring Obama's maternal line. The puzzle starts with Punch, who is presumed to have arrived in Virginia around 1640 from west Africa, initially as an indentured servant obligated to work for years to pay for his passage.

Colo. suspect charges: Murder, attempted murder

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP)—James Holmes appeared just as dazed as he did in his first court hearing after the deadly Colorado movie theater massacre.

Holmes, 24, sat silently in a packed Denver-area courtroom on Monday, as a judge told him about the charges filed against him, including murder and attempted murder, in one of the deadliest mass shootings in recent U.S. history. After the charges were read, prosecutors and defense attorneys sparred over whether a notebook that news reports said Holmes sent to his psychiatrist and had descriptions of the attack was privileged information.

It's an argument that foreshadows one of the case's most fundamental issues: Does Holmes have a mental illness and, if so, what role did it play in the shooting that left 12 people dead and 58 others injured?

Sam Kamin, a law professor at the University of Denver, said there is "pronounced" evidence that the attack was premeditated, which would seem to make an insanity defense difficult. "But," he added, "the things that we don't know are what this case is going to hinge on, and that's his mental state." In all, prosecutors charged Holmes with 142 counts in the shooting rampage at a midnight showing of the new Batman movie.

Holmes faces two first-degree murder charges for each of the 12 people killed and two attempted first-degree murder charges for every one of the 58 injured in the July 20 shooting.

The maximum penalty for a first-degree murder conviction is death. The multiple charges expand the opportunities for prosecutors to obtain convictions.

"It's a much easier way for the prosecution to obtain a conviction," said Denver defense attorney Peter Hedeen. "They throw as many (charges) up as they can. If you think you can prove it three different ways, you charge it three different ways."

Unlike Holmes' first court appearance July 23, Monday's hearing was not televised. At the request of the defense, District Chief Judge William Sylvester barred video and still cameras from the courtroom, saying expanded coverage could interfere with Holmes' right to a fair trial.

A shackled Holmes did not react as the charges were read. At one point, Holmes, his hair still dyed orange-red, leaned over to speak with one of his lawyers and furrowed his brow. When the judge asked him if he was OK with postponing a hearing so his team could have time to prepare, he said softly: "Yeah."

One man's dying wish for $500 tip inspires charity

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—As Seth Collins finished his penne pasta at a Lexington restaurant, he called over the waitress to fulfill his brother's dying wish.

He explained to her that his 30-year-old brother Aaron recently passed away, but that he'd left instructions in his will to leave a $500 tip for a server.

Then Seth Collins handed the waitress a stack of $20 bills.

The waitress, Chelsea Powell, took the money reluctantly and then smiled and said: "Are you kidding me?" She laughed nervously and had to cover her mouth from the excitement before giving Collins a hug.

The big tip at Bella Notte restaurant was the second $500 gratuity Seth Collins has left since Aaron Collins died on July 7. And the tips will keep coming, thanks to more than $47,000 in donations from people inspired by Aaron Collins' dying act of charity.

The family didn't even know he'd written a will when they found the document on his computer.

It had instructions on what to do with his motorcycle, his artwork and to "leave an awesome tip (and I don't mean 25%. I mean $500 on a ... pizza)."

"It was the last thing in his will, that we do this, and it kind of took me by surprise to see that, and for that reason it kind of left a mark on me," Seth Collins said shortly after leaving giving the $500 tip to Powell earlier this month.

Aaron Collins' death was unexpected. His brother said the family is still awaiting a final determination on the cause, but a preliminary coroner's report said strangulation contributed to the death.

Collins set up a website after his brother's death to collect money for the big tip.

He raised enough from family and friends for the first tip, and then Collins posted a video of the giveaway on YouTube. The video showing Collins telling a waitress at an Italian restaurant his brother's story and handing over the cash, instantly went viral. Since it was posted in mid-July, 2 million people have watched.

Donors from around the world, many anonymous, have flooded the site.

"When I was daydreaming I thought (if we could collect) $1,500, we'll do it three times, that would just be unbelievable to do it three times, never thought I'd get to," Collins said. And then after he posted the first video, "suddenly I'm thinking, `Oh we're going to get to do it 20 times, 40 times.'"

Powell, who received the second big tip from Collins, works three jobs and is studying at the University of Kentucky to be a teacher.

Asia

Typhoon leaves at least 7 dead in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A typhoon dumped torrents of rain as it swept past the Philippines, killing at least seven people and displacing more than 20,000 others by Tuesday. Another storm lashed the capital and neighboring provinces, leaving several parts of Manila without power and under water.

The wild weather whipped up by Typhoon Saola as it roared off the country's northeast was compounded by a separate low-pressure area that lashed Manila with tornado-like winds and powerful thunderstorms late Sunday and early Monday. Many parts of the capital and outlying provinces were without power and low-lying areas were flooded.

Initially a tropical storm, Saola strengthened late Monday into a typhoon with sustained winds of 120 kilometers (74 miles) per hour and gusts of 150 kph (93 mph). The howler is expected to blow toward Taiwan later this week, according to Manila's weather bureau.

Seven people died in the storm and several others are missing, said Benito Ramos of the Office of Civil Defense. One of the men who died had an asthma attack while he and about 100 other people were being rescued from a ferry that ran aground, caught fire then sank in rough seas late Sunday off central Romblon province.

In Manila, two barges that drifted off a pier smashed into wooden shanties on stilts in the city's Tondo slum, destroying dozens of huts but causing no injuries.

AP

A Filipino resident swims in polluted waters as he tries to salvage items from their house after two empty barges rammed into shanties on stilts at a poor community in Manila, Philippines on Monday July 30, 2012.

Coast guard officer Noli Casiano said residents fled from the wind and waves before the empty barges rammed their homes.

"We fled to safety as the waves suddenly grew strong and the wind howled," Ivy Rosario, a mother of two, told The Associated Press.

"When we came back, everything was destroyed," said Rosario, pointing to the debris-littered waters near where her home once stood. Some villagers jumped into the water to try to salvage floating belongings.

More than 40,000 people were battered by the flooding and pounding rain in the capital and seven provinces, half of whom fled from their inundated homes into government evacuation centers and houses of relatives, according to the government's disaster-response agency.

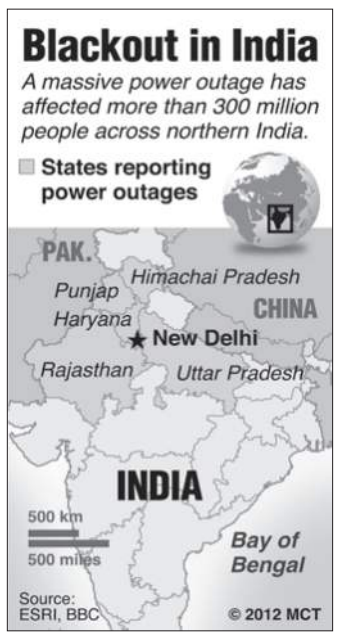
Saola is the seventh of 20 typhoons and storms expected to hit the Philippines this year. Saola is the name of a rare mammal found in Vietnam and Laos.

Indian power failure puts 370M in dark for hours

NEW DELHI (AP)—A power grid failure blacked out northern India for hours Monday, halting trains, forcing hospitals and airports onto backup power and providing a dark, sweltering reminder of the nation's inability to meet its energy needs as it strives to be an economic power.

While the midsummer outage was unique in its reach—it hit 370 million people, more than the population of the United States and Canada combined—its impact was softened by Indians' familiarity with almost daily blackouts of varying duration. Hospitals and major businesses have backup generators that seamlessly kick in during power cuts, and upscale homes are hooked to backup systems powered by truck batteries.

Nonetheless, some small businesses were forced to shut for the day. Buildings were without water because the pumps weren't working, and the vaunted New Delhi Metro, with 1.8 million daily riders, was paralyzed during the morning commute.



"This will obviously get worse," said Subhash Chawla, a 65-year-old retiree who took the Metro once power was restored. "Unless the Metro has a separate power supply, it will be chaos in the future."

The grid that failed feeds the nation's breadbasket in Punjab, the war-wracked region of Kashmir, the burgeoning capital of New Delhi, the Dalai Lama's Himalayan headquarters in Dharmsala, and the world's most populous state, poverty-stricken Uttar Pradesh.

Most affected areas had power back by late morning, less than nine hours after the outage started. By evening, 15 hours after the outage began, officials said full power had been restored.

Many chafed at the inconvenience.

Amit Naik, a toy maker in New Delhi, was forced to close his workshop for the day.

"There was no water, so my machine couldn't run. Other people had the same difficulties," he said.

The Confederation of Indian Industry said the outage was a reminder of the urgent need for the government to fix the power sector, ensure a steady supply of coal for power plants and reform the electricity utilities.

Transmission and distribution losses in some states are as much as 50 percent because of theft and corruption by employees in the power industry. India's Central Electricity Authority reported power deficits of about 8 percent in recent months.

Power Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde deflected criticism, pointing out that the United States and Brazil also had huge power failures in recent years.

"I ask you to look at the power situation in other countries as well," he said.

The blackout, the worst to hit India in a decade, began about 2:30 a.m. when the grid covering eight northern states crashed. Officials in Uttar Pradesh, where the problem was believed to have begun, said the grid could not keep up with the huge demand for power in the hot summer.

Quake-hit NZ city aims to rebuild

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A convention center, sports stadium and performing arts complex are among the big projects planned for a new-look downtown Christchurch after the New Zealand city was reduced to rubble by an earthquake last year.

Essentially given a blank slate, government planners on Monday unveiled a blueprint for the city that replaces office towers with green spaces, urban apartments and innovation "hubs" they say will give the city the feel of a college campus. Under the plan, the city will be smaller, the buildings lower in height and constructed to higher earthquake standards.

The plan has been eagerly awaited. It has been nearly 18 months since the magnitude-6.1 quake struck, killing 185 people and irreparably damaging 1,400 downtown buildings including the century-old Anglican cathedral in the city center.

"It will be safe, modern, green and will leave a legacy that makes Christchurch one of the best places in the world to live and work for many generations to come," Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said in a statement.

Many residents have become frustrated at the slow pace of recovery in Christchurch. Hundreds of substantial aftershocks have hampered progress and made insurers skittish, while government and city officials, including Mayor Parker, have been accused of dithering and bickering. Even before the plan was released, some wondered if they would end up footing a chunk of the bill through rate hikes.

Yet for many, the plan is a welcome step forward. Some see it as a unique chance to correct problems in the city, such as an excess of older-style office space that was evident even before the earthquake. The plan also comes as the aftershocks appear to be finally abating.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan concerned by China's navy, opaque leadership

TOKYO (AP)—Japan is concerned that China's increased naval operations in the western Pacific coupled with a lack of transparency over who sets the Chinese military's agenda are posing a security threat in the region. Japan's annual report on national defense, released Tuesday, says Chinese operations in the waters around Japan are becoming a routine occurrence. It also says uncertainty over how much power the military has in the decision-making process compared to the Communist Party leadership makes it difficult to understand the military's motives. Chinese military activity has been evident lately in territorial disputes that have raised regional tensions. Japan and China are at odds over the Senkaku islands—called Diaoyu in Chinese—and China's navy has been increasingly involved in disputes over islands in the South China Sea.

More heavy rain hits NKorea, flooding buildings

ANJU, North Korea (AP)—More heavy rain pounded North Korea on Monday, submerging buildings, cutting off power, flooding rice paddies and forcing people and their livestock to climb onto rooftops for safety. The rain follows downpours earlier this month that killed nearly 90 people and left more than 60,000 homeless, officials said. The floods come on the heels of a severe drought, fueling renewed food worries about a country that already struggles to feed its people. Two-thirds of North Korea's 24 million people face chronic food shortages, a U.N. report said last month, while asking donors for $198 million in humanitarian aid for the country. South Korean analyst Kwon Tae-jin said the recent flooding, coming so soon after the dry spell, is likely to worsen the North's food problems.

UN rights envoy probes ethnic clashes in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A United Nations human rights expert began a weeklong visit to Myanmar on Monday by focusing on deadly strife between Buddhists and Muslim Rohingya that shook a western area in June. Tomas Ojea Quintana met with the minister of border affairs for a briefing on the situation in northwestern Rakhine state. At least 78 people were killed and tens of thousands made homeless when their dwellings were burned. Although the violence apparently crested in June, human rights groups and several Islamic nations have recently called for an outside investigation and protection for the Rohingya community, saying it faces continuing abuse.

World

Tens of thousands flee Syria's largest city

BUKULMEZ, Turkey (AP)—Smoking a cigarette outside a Turkish hospital near the Syrian border, a man in a gray gown and flip-flops held his sleeping 2-year-old daughter, Aya. On Aya's right eye was a bandage. In her left hand was a chocolate bar.

Aya lost her eye when she was struck by shrapnel from a shell that also killed her 8-month-old brother, Mohammad, and their mother. The father and daughter were among some 200,000 people who the U.N. said late Sunday have fled Syria's largest city, Aleppo, during days of clashes between rebels and the military.

Aleppo residents, some severely wounded, are packing up belongings and loading them onto cars, trucks and even motorcycles to seek temporary shelter in rural villages and schools outside the city and dusty tents across the border in Turkey.

In interviews with The Associated Press, refugees described a city besieged by government troops and beset by incessant shelling. Food supplies and gasoline are running low and black market prices for everyday staples are soaring.

As the violence intensified, the country's most senior diplomat in London defected. Charge d'affaires Khaled al-Ayoubi is the latest in a string of high-profile diplomats to abandon President Bashar Assad's regime over a crackdown that, according to rights activists, has killed more than 19,000 people since March 2011.

AP

This image made from amateur video released by the Ugarit News and accessed Monday, July 30, 2012, purports to show Free Syrian Army soldiers in Anadan 16 kilometers (10 miles), from Aleppo, Syria.

The battle for Aleppo, a city of 3 million that was once a bastion of support for Assad, is critical for both the regime and the opposition. Its fall would give the opposition a major strategic victory with a stronghold in the north. A rebel defeat, at the very least, would buy Assad more time.

Activists said regime forces were shelling rebel-held districts of the city and a cluster of surrounding villages relentlessly on Monday, sending entire families and panicked residents fleeing. Many went to Turkey, some 30 miles (50 kilometers) away, where tens of thousands of Syrians have already found refuge during the uprising.

Reem, a woman in her 30s who fled Aleppo's rebel-held district of Saif al-Dawleh, was among those who showed up in Turkey on Monday.

"The situation in Aleppo is dreadful," she told the AP soon after arriving at the Bukulmez illegal border crossing, where she was greeted by Turkish soldiers.

"Had it been merely bearable I wouldn't have left my home," she said.

Wearing a black head scarf and black robe and sandals, Reem described hiding for three days in a room near the entrance of the building in which she lived. She then fled to a village near the Turkish border before crossing over on Monday.

"I blame the regime for everything. People in the city used to go out and protest peacefully, but they just shot at them," said Reem, who would not give her last name.

Turkish troops ordered an AP team to leave shortly after journalists began interviewing refugees at the border crossing Monday.

Outside the state-run hospital, Aya's father recounted how his family's tragedy unfolded.

"I was at work when I received the call that a shell had hit my house," he said. "As soon as I returned, I found my wife and son dead on the floor. Part of my son's skull was blown off, and Aya was wounded."

"The whole city is destroyed," said Aya's father, who would not give his name but said that he was from the rebel-held district of Bustan al-Qasr.

The U.N. said 200,000 Syrians have left Aleppo over the past 10 days as the government trains its mortars, tanks and helicopter gunships on the neighborhoods seized by the rebels.

"I am extremely concerned by the impact of shelling and use of tanks and other heavy weapons on people in Aleppo," Valerie Amos, the top U.N. official for humanitarian affairs, said in a statement late Sunday. "Many people have sought temporary shelter in schools and other public buildings in safer areas," she added. "They urgently need food, mattresses and blankets, hygiene supplies and drinking water."

America's uneasy Gulf allies adding to arsenals

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—While Iran's military loudly trumpets every new project or purported advance in hopes of rattling the U.S. and its Gulf Arab allies, the U.S. is quietly answering with an array of proposed arms sales across the region as part of a wider effort to counter Tehran.

In the past two months, the Defense Department has notified Congress of possible deals totaling more than $11.3 billion to Gulf states such as Qatar and Kuwait, which are seen as some of America's critical front-line partners in containing Iran and protecting oil shipping lanes.

The proposed sales—including Patriot missile batteries and Apache attack helicopters—are still modest compared with massive Gulf purchases such as Saudi Arabia's $60 billion package last year. That deal included more than 80 new F-15SA fighter jets, missiles, radar warning systems and other equipment.

But the recent flurry of expected sales from U.S. firms, approved by the Pentagon and outlined in notifications to Congress, underscores the growing emphasis among nervous Gulf states on seeking quick upgrades to existing firepower and defensive networks.

The arms sale need congressional approval, but usually few objections are raised for key allies such as Gulf nations.

Gulf worries about possible military action against Iran have increased with diplomatic efforts making little headway in easing the showdown over Tehran's nuclear program, which the West and others fear could eventually develop atomic weapons. Iran says it only seeks reactors for energy and medical uses.

AP

In this Monday Nov. 12, 2007 file photo, an Emarati visitor asks a U.S. military representative questions, as they stand next to an MQ-1 Predator spy plane, during the 2nd day of the 10th Dubai Airshow, at the Dubai airport, United Arab Emirates.

An Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, reported Sunday that National Security Adviser Tom Donilon briefed Israeli officials on possible U.S. attack plans if diplomacy and sanctions fail to pressure Tehran to scale back its nuclear enrichment program. A senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss confidential talks, denied the Haaretz report.

The news reports reflect the uncertainties in the region with negotiations nearly stalled and Iran trying to push back against deepening sanctions on its vital oil exports.

"There was a bit of a breather in the region when (nuclear) talks resumed," said Bruno Tertrais, senior researcher at the Foundation for Strategic Research in Paris. "That is quickly fading."

In its place: a sense of military adjustments moving at a faster pace.

Washington plans to keep at least 13,500 troops in Kuwait—down slightly from the current 15,000—but with an expanded mission as a potential rapid-reaction force for the region. The Pentagon also has scores of warplanes and other assets across the Gulf, including air bases in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

At sea, the U.S. Navy plans to lead maneuvers in September that include minesweeping drills—a clear response to Iran's threats to block oil tankers from passing through the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf in retaliation for the tightening Western sanctions.

Chavez: joining trade bloc a boon for Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Joining the South American trade bloc Mercosur will be a boon for Venezuela and should help the country's businesses boost international sales, President Hugo Chavez said Monday as he traveled to Brazil for a meeting where Venezuela will formally become a member.

Chavez urged Venezuelan business leaders, some of whom are concerned about reducing tariffs, to support the initiative as he left Caracas for the meeting in Brasilia.

He said joining Mercosur will allow Venezuela "to have a much wider market to climb the scale" in its exports and also diversify its largely oil-driven economy. At the same time, Chavez said the bloc's other members, including Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, will also have expanded access to Venezuela's vast oil reserves.

Some business leaders and farmers say they're worried that the four-year period during which Venezuela should eliminate tariffs on products from Mercosur members will be too short, and that cheaper imports from countries such as Brazil and Argentina could hurt Venezuelan businesses.

Coffee grower Vicente Perez said he and other Venezuelan farmers are already struggling due to price controls and 21 percent inflation, and is concerned that joining the trade bloc will bring more economic pain.

"Now we just survive, and when Mercosur arrives I don't know what will happen," said Perez, who said price controls and other problems have forced him to leave his farm in central Portuguesa state in the hands of workers while he moved to the city to look for other work.

Assange mom says WikiLeaks founder suffering

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—The mother of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said Monday after meeting with Ecuador's foreign minister that she's worried about her son's health after nearly seven weeks' confinement at the South American nation's London embassy.

"He is under a lot of stress and it's been long-term stress now for nearly two years and in conditions which are similar to detention," Christine Assange told The Associated Press.

Her son took refuge in the embassy on June 19, requesting political asylum after exhausting all legal appeals to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning about sexual misconduct allegations.

Julian Assange, who angered U.S. officials by publishing secret U.S. diplomatic cables and military documents, calls the accusations trumped up and says he fears Sweden will extradite him to the United States for trial.

Ecuadorean officials have said they will not announce a decision on the asylum request until after the London Olympic Games end in mid-August.

Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino said his country is doing "everything possible to protect the life of Mr. Assange."

Focus

LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS: To tell or not to tell?

There's no one right way to handle news of a life-threatening diagnosis, but how difficult is it for people to tell or not tell, and at what cost?

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—In 1976, as a 24-year-old grad student, Samira Beckwith was diagnosed with the thing people still whispered about: cancer.

She was in and out of the hospital, had five surgeries and endured round after round of chemotherapy and radiation as she battled Hodgkin's lymphoma. Beyond a few professors and close friends, she didn't routinely tell people of her bleak diagnosis as she focused on staying alive.

Years later, as she was about to turn 50, disaster struck again. This time it was breast cancer and a double mastectomy. Her desire for a bit of privacy was the same, but society and sickness had become a share-all whirl.

"Back the first time around, people didn't want to hear or talk about cancer. But the boundaries changed, and the second time it was breast cancer. People really like to talk about breast cancer," said Beckwith, now 59 and clinical director of a health care services company in Fort Myers, Fla.

"But there are still many people who want to keep their illness, keep the decisions that they're making, within a close circle," she said. "They don't want to be out there on Facebook. It's almost like there's something wrong with them because they don't want to share."

Nora Ephron might have agreed. The humorist who chronicled her life in books and lent romance a laugh in movies kept her leukemia largely locked down to the point that her death last month at age 71 stunned even some close friends. If she had any wisecracks about cancer, she didn't share them with the world.

There's no one right way to handle news of a life-threatening diagnosis, but how difficult is it for people to tell or not tell, and at what cost?

Michael Jaillet, a senior executive at Dell, learned June 20, 2011, that he had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS. It was the "ultimate horror," he said. Only his wife and three brothers knew for several months as he sought out a diagnosis, then second and third and fourth opinions.

Among those initially left out of the loop were co-workers and his three children, now 14, 13 and 11.

"It became, in a lot of ways, a bigger burden than the disease," Jaillet said of the secret. "It's guilt, tiptoeing around, talking in code. It's clearing out your email or your Internet browser every night because you know your kids are going to get on and you don't want them to see what you've been researching."

Now "out" and active in raising money for research and supporting others with ALS, the 41-year-old Jaillet sees dignity in going public and embracing a broader base of emotional support.

"I feel like I've got a torch that I have to carry," he said.

Often with limited energy and a need to maintain normal routines, people faced with life-changing illness may not know how to go about deciding when, how and how much to disclose.

"Someone's going to know. Word's going to get out and then you're in a position and they're in a position of sort of dancing around the elephant in the room," said psychotherapist Fredda Wasserman, who has spent 40 years helping people navigate that journey.

AP

This March 24, 2012 photo released by Jessica Aguirre shows Jessica Aguirre celebrating her 31st birthday with her sons, Giovanni Vazquez, 5, left, and Evelio Vazquez III, 6, in Key Largo, Fla. Aguirre, the mother of two young boys in Green Acres, Fla., was 29 when diagnosed with breast cancer nearly two years ago. Her bad news came just three days before she received a promotion to manager of the cell phone store where she is now on medical leave, after the cancer spread to her brain.

Anticipating how people will react can be a huge source of anxiety, said Wasserman, clinical director of Our House, a grief counseling and support center in Los Angeles and co-author of the 2010 book "Saying Goodbye to Someone You Love."

If sharing the journey is a priority, then be clear about what you need from those you tell, she suggests. An offer of dinner, for instance, doesn't have to mean a night of chitchat with the person who brought it. Do you need jokes to keep you laughing or a shoulder for crying?

"People sometimes want to pray for you. If they do, you can tell them what you're hoping for," she said. "If I'm looking for a cure, that. Maybe I'm just hoping for a day free of pain. Maybe I'm looking for the strength and courage to face what is ahead for me. Let me tell you what I want."

For others, talking about their illness is the last thing they want to do.

"It makes them feel worse," Wasserman said. "It's, 'I don't want to think of myself as a cancer patient. I don't want to be talking about my aches and pains.' Sometimes people will tell and then really regret it, because they're being treated differently."

Taking control of the conversation is important, she said.

"Say, 'Look, I don't want you to treat me like I'm dying, or I don't want you to treat me like I'm pathetic,'" Wasserman said. "That's one reason why a lot of people don't tell. Their skin cringes to have people talk to them like that."

Jessica Aguirre, the mother of two young boys in Green Acres, Fla., was 29 when diagnosed with breast cancer nearly two years ago. Her bad news came just three days before she received a promotion to manager of the cell phone store where she is now on medical leave, after the cancer spread to her brain.

"I just decided to be completely open with everything and everyone at work," she said. "I just thought, you know what, maybe having this can help somebody else. I think that if you do keep it to yourself it will eat you up inside."

Campus Life

Summer camp participants and camp counselors pose for a souvenir photo displaying their artwork. This was the first summer camp program implemented by the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB hosts first ever summer learning camp

Summer vacations are busy times for kids these days. With the summer break, parents are looking for different camp activities to engage their children in. Catering to the demand, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja hosted its first summer camp program, offering a wide range of creative activities for children.

On July 16, ESFDB kicked off its first summer camp, called "Building Builders Learning." It is designed to build the love of reading integrated with environmental awareness, healthy living, and physical activities.

Based on research, students who participate in summer camp programs show positive impact in their learning compared to those who do not attend.

The uniqueness about ESFDB summer camp learning program is a lot of teamwork and motivation among students to face the challenging opportunities ahead. They are not worried about failing. It's all about learning, playing, and having fun.

The ESFDB Building Builders Learning Summer Camp captures, discovers, and develops students' potential by nurturing them intellectually, physically, and holistically.

ESFDB camp participants work on their artwork using trash bins to send their message during their environmental awareness session.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Husband-and-wife Edgar and Cris Tuazon with their son Aaron donate their son's books to the ESFDB Summer Camp 2012 for their reading assignment. Camp counselors and participants extend their appreciation to the Tuazon family and bon voyage on their trip to the Philippines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Furthermore, the summer camp will provide a seminar for parents to acquire some knowledge to help their children. It is important to network with parents so they would follow up on the skills being taught to their children.

The ESFDB Building Builders Learning Summer Camp 2012 funding was made possible by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care Development Fund.

Upon learning of this federal grant, school principal Carmen H. Atalig took the initiative to secure the necessary documents to apply for the grant. While some programs charge significant fees to attend summer camps, the ESFDB summer camp program is free of charge because of the federal funds granted.

The summer camp program is headed by camp counselor leader Florinda Chavez, followed by team counselors Geraldine Dela Cruz, Mary Rose Lucero, and Lea Maratita. In addition, the counselors are being assisted by student volunteers Zahra Frazier and Angelique Perez.

ESFDB would like to express their appreciation to the parents and the Rota Mayor's Office, Harry Masga of the Office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Rota District, and Rep. Teresita A. Santos. ***(Edward Maratita, Jr.)***

Life & Style

Romantic crooner Tony Martin dies at 98

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tony Martin, the romantic singer who appeared in movie musicals from the 1930s to the 1950s and sustained a career in records, television and nightclubs from the Depression era into the 21st century, has died. He was 98.

Martin died of natural causes Friday evening at his West Los Angeles home, his friend and accountant Beverly Scott said Monday.

A peer of Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra, Martin sang full voice in a warm baritone that carried special appeal for his female audience. Among his hit recordings were "I Get Ideas," "To Each His Own," "Begin the Beguine" and "There's No Tomorrow."

"He's the ultimate crooner who outlasted all is contemporaries," musician and longtime friend Gabriel Guerrero said from his Oregon home. Martin recently sang to Guerrero over the telephone.

"He has truly remained the butterscotch baritone until he was 98," Guerrero added.

Although he never became a full-fledged movie star, he was featured in 25 films, most of them made during the heyday of the Hollywood musicals. A husky 6 feet tall and dashingly handsome, he was often cast as the romantic lead.

He also married two movie musical superstars, Alice Faye and Cyd Charisse, and the latter union lasted 60 years, until her death in 2008.

Martin found his escape through music while growing up in San Francisco and Oakland amid a poor, close-knit Russian Jewish family, enduring taunts and slights from gentile classmates.

"I always sang," he wrote. "I always played some instrument or other, real or imagined. ... At first, of course, my music was just for my own fun. I didn't recognize it right away as my passport away from poverty."

AP
In this September 1956 photo, singer Tony Martin arrived in New York from London where he recently completed "Jeannie" and immediately took off for Los Angeles where lovely wife, Cyd Charisse, was waiting for him.

Performing on radio led to his break into the film business. His first singing role came in the 1936 "Sing Baby Sing," which starred future wife Faye and introduced the Ritz Brothers to the screen as a more frenetic version of the Marx Brothers.

As a contract player at Twentieth Century-Fox, Martin also appeared in "Pigskin Parade" (featuring young Judy Garland), "Banjo on My Knee" (Barbara Stanwyck, Joel McCrea) "Sing and Be Happy," "You Can't Have Everything" (Faye, Don Ameche) "Ali Baba Goes to Town" (comedian Eddie Cantor) and "Sally, Irene and Mary."

In 1940 he shifted to MGM and sang in such films as "The Ziegfeld Girl" (James Stewart, Lana Turner, Judy Garland), "The Big Store" (the Marx Brothers), "Till the Clouds Roll By," "Easy to Love" (Esther Williams) and "Deep in My Heart."

In 1948, he produced and starred in "Casbah," a well-received film musical version of "Algiers" with a fine score by Harold Arlen and Leo Robin. He made singing tours of Europe and had a yearly contract at London's Palladium.

Martin had fallen in love with Faye while at Fox, where she was one of the studio's biggest stars. Married in 1937, the newlyweds were considered one of Hollywood's handsomest couples. But the marriage eroded because of career conflicts and his distaste for becoming known as Mr. Alice Faye. They divorced after two years.

Martin met Charisse, then a rising dance star at MGM, when they were dinner partners at a party given by their mutual agent. Just returned from the war, Martin was busy greeting old friends and paid her little attention.

They didn't meet until a year later, when the persistent agent arranged another date. This time they clicked, and they married in 1948. She had a son Nicky, born of her first marriage to dance director Nico Charisse. She gave birth to Tony Jr. in 1950.

Twitter suspends reporter's account

LONDON (AP)—Twitter has suspended the account of a Los Angeles-based reporter for a British newspaper who included the email address of the NBC Olympics president and asked his followers to write him to complain about the network's coverage.

Guy Adams, a correspondent for The Independent, was upset with the network's decision to broadcast the opening ceremony on tape delay when he sent his critical tweet Friday afternoon.

"The man responsible for NBC pretending the Olympics haven't started yet is Gary Zenkel. Tell him what u think!" it read, before going on to provide his corporate email listing.

Adams checked his Twitter account Sunday and received a message it was suspended. He then received an email Monday that attributed the move to his tweet that included Zenkel's email.

"We filed a complaint with Twitter because a user tweeted the personal information of one of our executives," NBC Sports said in a statement Monday. "According to Twitter, this is a violation of their privacy policy. Twitter alone levies discipline."

Rachael Horwitz, a spokeswoman for the social media site, said the company never comments on individual users for privacy reasons. But she said Twitter considers work emails private unless they're publicly shared.

NBC has racked up record ratings through the first couple days of the London Games, but also has faced harsh criticism online, largely from American viewers upset with tape-delayed coverage. Angry Olympic fans used the hashtag "nbcfail" and even set up at least one parody account poking fun at the TV wait.

The network is streaming the events online, but that clearly isn't enough for some viewers who shelled out thousands of dollars for big-screen TVs and want their live coverage.

"If this Gary Zenkel doesn't want to hear from the many tens of thousands of customers he upset with his network's coverage, I think he's in the wrong job," Adams said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

When Twitter receives a complaint like the one against Adams, its support team does its own investigation before deciding whether to suspend the account.

Adams said he found Zenkel's email with a simple online search, but said he didn't grab it from an NBC website.

"His address is not a private email address," Adams said. "It's a corporate address. It's not his private email address. It's a corporate account. It's company information."

Twitter and NBC have partnered on some social media-based projects surrounding the Olympics. But Horwitz said the site doesn't actively monitor content.

Some Olympians want marketing rules changed

LONDON (AP)—Money is probably not a worry for Sanya Richards-Ross. She has endorsement deals with BMW and Nike and is married to Jacksonville Jaguars cornerback Aaron Ross, who will earn $15 million over the next three seasons.

But there are restrictions on what Richards-Ross and other Olympians can promote at the London Games. That has upset some competitors, who want organizers to change the policy—especially to help athletes without lucrative sponsorship deals.

"I've been very fortunate to do very well around the Olympics, but so many of my peers struggle in this sport. And I just think it's unjust," Richards-Ross, an American sprinter, said Monday.

Richards-Ross, who also sells autographed photos and posters on her website, was among the athletes taking part in a Twitter campaign, using the hashtags "WeDemandChange2012" and "Rule40."

Rule 40 is the International Olympic Committee policy barring Olympic athletes from using their names or likenesses for advertising during the games. The rule is in effect from July 18 through Aug. 15, three days after the closing ceremony.

Richards-Ross

The IOC says it pours 94 percent of its commercial revenue back into sports, and is only trying to protect the money that comes into the Olympic movement.

"A huge number of 10,500 athletes who are here would understand why we are doing this," spokesman Mark Jones said. "For one month, we ask them not to endorse products not related to the Olympics that don't actually give money back to the movement."

Sponsorship is everywhere at the Olympics—but official sponsors only.

Richards-Ross spoke at a U.S. Track and Field news conference in the Main Press Centre at Olympic Park, where someone setting up the room neatly arranged bottles of Coca-Cola and Powerade on the dais.

A banner at a park entrance reads: "There would be no goosebumps, gasps, pounding hearts, tears of joy, records smashed, strangers hugged, or a whole world brought together without" followed by the logos of McDonald's, Adidas and Procter & Gamble.

That may explain why U.S. flagbearer and fencing gold medalist Mariel Zagunis was allowed to post this to her social media accounts: "Big thanks to P&G for taking care of my mom when she flew in early to watch me carry the flag in the Opening Ceremony!"

P&G has a facility in London to host families of U.S. athletes, offering food, drink, laundry and salon services. U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman Patrick Sandusky said a comment like Zagunis' is permissible if the sponsor has requested a waiver from the USOC on the IOC's behalf.

Richards-Ross said only 2 percent of American athletes can tweet about their sponsors because they have USOC or IOC sponsors.

With the games generating billions of dollars, "Athletes just want to be considered," she said. "The Olympic reality and the Olympic ideal ... right now are different."

The Twitter campaign and IOC response dominated part of the USATF news conference Monday, prompting USATF spokeswoman Jill Geer to good-naturedly remind reporters that "we also have a track meet coming up."

After the news conference, Richards-Ross said she was headed to a sponsor appearance with British oil giant BP—an IOC sponsor.

First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

ESTEVAN RAMOS CRUZ

We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved Estevan unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be offered at San Vicente Church beginning Wednesday, August 1, 2012 thru Thursday, August 9, 2012 at 6:00 PM. On Thursday, August 9, 2012Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 PM followed by Dinner at the Family residence in Dandan, Tasi Lane.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'use Ma'ase, Salamat Po and Thank You

Emily U. Cruz, Children and Family

Sitcom creators mine laughs from their real lives

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Got a goofy older brother? Parents you still live with even though you're grown up? An unconventional friendship?

If so, you're too late to turn those ideas into a hit sitcom.

But while you comb your life for something else to fuel a comedy that a network will love, consider three fall sitcoms spawned from the personal lives of their creators.

CBS' "Partners" explores the lifelong friendship of Louis, who's gay, and Joe, who's straight, as they navigate their architecture business and their respective romantic ties. Their best-friends dynamic is inspired by the friendship of Max Mutchnick and David Kohan, who met in high school and, after partnering as TV producers, co-created shows including the megahit "Will & Grace."

AP

From left, actress Sophia Bush, actor David Krumholtz, executive producer David Kohan, executive producer Max Mutchnick, actor Michael Urie and actor Brandon Routh participate in the CBS "Partners" TCA panel on Sunday, July 29, 2012 in Beverly Hills, Calif.

There's no attempt to hide the lineage of Fox's "Ben & Kate." It's the tale of a freewheeling brother, Ben, who comes back into the life of his single-mother younger sister, Kate, to serve as a surrogate dad while continuing his lifelong role as a mischievous child. The show is based on the relationship of its creator, Dana Fox, with her own big brother, whose name is, yes, Ben.

Meanwhile, ABC's "How to Live with Your Parents for the Rest of Your Life" finds a young mom from a broken marriage seeking refuge at her parents' with her young daughter. It was drawn from the domestic situation of creator Claudia Lonow, who well into adulthood and despite career success (including producing the sitcom "Less than Perfect"), continues to live with parents she describes as "charismatic," "super entertaining" and "very weird."

"I've been living there for 15 years, and I've been (developing) the show for about 12," Lonow told reporters this week at the Television Critics Association conference.

Like Polly (played by Sarah Chalke), who descends on TV parents Brad Garrett and Elizabeth Perkins, "I did show up at their doorstep and say, `I hope this isn't a bad time for YOU, because it is for ME.'

"They reacted like any loving mother and stepfather would," Lenow recalled, and took her and her daughter in.

"We slept in the weight room on a cot for a while. And then, when it was time for my daughter to go to grammar school, I bought a house with them. I know it was crazy," she said with a laugh. "It's like there should be a show about it!"

Sitcoms that smack of autobiography are nothing new, of course. "I Love Lucy" 60 years ago took its cue from the showbiz-infused marital life of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz.

But Dana Fox has been gathering material for "Ben and Kate" since the cradle thanks to her brother, Ben, who's two years her senior.

She describes him as a "Ferris Bueller-type guy ... a really, really smart guy who intentionally does incredibly dumb things that would get us into so much trouble.

"He doesn't think a lot before he jumps," she said, "but he usually has a totally bizarre logic to all of his behavior."

Item: Once when they were kids, their mom came home to find the whole house smelling like a dead animal. Ben had put his down-feather pillow in the microwave for 10 minutes on low, "to heat it up because he was cold."

Fox took pains to say that on "Ben and Kate" the siblings' relationship (portrayed by Nat Faxon and Dakota Johnson) more closely mirrors her connection with Ben Fox when they were somewhat younger. She stressed that, in truth, her brother grew up, married, had two children and has become a responsible father, though she added, "I give a ton of credit to his wife, who's a psychologist."

But if real-life Ben settled down a bit—with a successful career in advertising—he remains a cutup. He still calls his sister "Phlegm-er," she reports, "which is totally disgusting and super humiliating." And she says that, while he's delighted about the show, he's not surprised he earned such a tribute. Instead, he marvels "that it hasn't happened before now."

"The Partners" is a buddy comedy about a gay guy and a straight guy (played by Michael Urie and David Krumholtz) who are best friends. It was created by a gay guy and a straight guy who have been best friends since they were teens.

"I think every gay man should have a straight man in his life," said Mutchnick, who, on realizing in high school he was gay, had a friend in Kohan he could talk about it with. "I was lucky enough that I was able to create a life and a great career with him, too."

But how true-to-life are the sitcom versions of these partners? Mutchnick was asked if, for instance, he's as self-obsessed as the volatile, comical character Louis.

"Absolutely!" Mutchnick fired back, and added instantly, "Do you have any OTHER questions about me?"

Former 'Idol' Kimberley Locke wants judge's chair

NEW YORK (AP)—Kimberley Locke wants to fill that vacant judge's chair on American Idol. The season 2 finalist feels having a former contestant on the show can bring renewed interest to the popular TV singing competition.

"I would love to sit in that chair and, you know, give some advice from the contestant's standpoint because I've been on that stage and I know what it's like," Locke said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press.

But don't consider her a pushover. Locke says she'll be brutally honest about each performance and "give it with no fluff."

Locke

"When you're a contestant on that show you do need that hard truth sometimes," Locke says, anticipating her critical tone would fall somewhere between the styles of two former judges.

"I'm not quite as nice as Paula (Abdul). Paula's super, super nice but I don't think I'm quite as mean as Simon (Cowell) either."

The empty judges' chairs came after Steven Tyler and Jennifer Lopez decided not to come back for another season. Last week, Mariah Carey confirmed she would join the show's 12th season. Other names mentioned to fill the missing spot include Nick Jonas, Pharrell Williams and Charlie Sheen.

Regardless of if Locke were to get the call, she loves the idea of former contestants coming back to judge. Adam Lambert has also been vocal about his willingness to be a judge on "Idol."

Since finishing behind Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken at the end of the show's second season, Locke embarked on a solo career, releasing two albums on Curb Records. Locke recently started her own label, IAM Entertainment. Her first single, "Finally Free" came out on Tuesday. She plans to release another single this year and a full album early next year.

Author acknowledges fake Dylan quotes, resigns

NEW YORK (AP)—A staff writer for The New Yorker has resigned and his best-selling book has been halted after he acknowledged inventing quotes by Bob Dylan.

Jonah Lehrer released a statement Monday through his publisher, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, saying that some Dylan quotes appearing in "Imagine: How Creativity Works" did "not exist." Others were "unintentional misquotations, or represented improper combinations of previously existing quotes."

Lehrer said he acknowledged his actions after being contacted by Michael Moynihan of the online publication Tablet Magazine, which earlier Monday released an in-depth story on the Dylan passages in "Imagine"

"I told Mr. Moynihan that they (the quotes in question) were from archival interview footage provided to me by Dylan's representatives. This was a lie spoken in a moment of panic. When Mr. Moynihan followed up, I continued to lie, and say things I should not have said," Lehrer wrote in his statement.

"The lies are over now. I understand the gravity of my position. I want to apologize to everyone I have let down, especially my editors and readers."

Houghton Mifflin said in a statement that Lehrer had committed a "serious misuse." Listings for the e-book edition of "Imagine" will be removed and shipments of the physical book have been stopped. "Imagine," published in March, has sold more than 200,000 copies, according to Houghton Mifflin. It has spent 16 weeks on The New York Times' hardcover nonfiction bestseller list and ranked No. 105 on Amazon.com as of midday Monday. Amazon had cited the book as among the best March releases.

A spokesman for Dylan did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Over the past decade, numerous books have been pulled, whether because of lifting material from other sources (Q.R. Markham's "Assassin of Secrets") or fabricating events (James Frey's "A Million Little Pieces"). Canceled books inevitably lead to calls for publishers to fact check releases. But publishers say the time and expense of reviewing thousands of texts, on a vast range of subjects, makes the process impractical.

"Publishing books is fundamentally different from publishing a newspaper or magazine," Bruce Nichols, Houghton Mifflin's senior vice president and publisher of adult trade books, said in a statement. "We rely on the authors' contractual warranties that the work is original and, for non-fiction, accurate.

"Nonetheless we consider accuracy and originality to be essential standards, and whenever any of our authors transgresses these standards we take it very seriously."

The 31-year-old Lehrer had been a rising star at The New Yorker, which is famous for its thorough fact checking. But he was already in trouble with the magazine after he acknowledged last month that he had recycled passages he had written for previous publications. Some recycled passages also appeared in "Imagine," the latest of three books by Lehrer, who is known for his explorations of science and literature and how the mind works.

Jackson estate limits kins' access to home amid feud

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's estate has acknowledged it has limited some relatives' access to the home shared by the singer's mother and children in the wake of a family feud that turned into a driveway argument last week.

The estate's statement released Monday afternoon does not specify which members of Jackson's family are no longer allowed at the home and says the list is subject to change. The statement says an approved guest list was requested by an attorney for TJ Jackson, the son of Tito Jackson who was appointed temporary guardian of the children last week.

"It is imperative to the estate that from this point forward a safe and appropriate environment be provided for Michael Jackson's children and his mother," the statement reads. The children and Katherine Jackson live in a gated community in suburban Calabasas that is more private than the family's longtime home in Encino, which is on a public street.

The statement was issued in response to an online report by journalist Roland Martin that Jackson's siblings Randy, Janet and Jermaine have been blocked from visiting the home. The trio was present in a July 23 scuffle that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department is still investigating as a possible battery.

The Jackson siblings followed a vehicle carrying Jackson's children, Prince, Paris and Blanket, through security gates and "ambushed" the children and their caretakers, an attorney for family matriarch Katherine Jackson said last week. The elder Jackson was out of contact with the children for roughly 10 days while at an Arizona spa, which prompted a missing person's report and concerns about her health.

TJ Jackson, the late singer's nephew, plans to become a co-guardian in an agreement reached last week after Katherine Jackson returned to the home.

Katherine Jackson's attorney Perry Sanders Jr. said last week that TJ Jackson would take over day-to-day operations and staff oversight at the Calabasas home. The move will free Katherine Jackson to focus on the upbringing of the children, who range in ages from 10 to 15, Sanders said.

Siblings Randy, Janet, Rebbie and Jermaine Jackson have signed a letter calling on the executors of Jackson's estate to resign. Randy Jackson has accused the executors, attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain, of trying to isolate Katherine Jackson from relatives who are critical of them.

"It is my fear and belief, that they are trying to take my mother's life," Randy Jackson wrote last week.

Randy Jackson has also claimed his brother's will is a fake, a claim the estate denies.

Sheryl Crow granted temporary restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has granted Sheryl Crow a temporary restraining order against a man who is accused of threatening to shoot the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter.

Crow

The order requires Phillip Gordon Sparks, 45, to stay 100 yards away and not attempt to contact Crow, her family or any of her workers. She wrote in a sworn statement that she is fearful of Sparks because he has claimed in profane online tirades that she has stolen money from him and broken into his house.

She also states Sparks recently went to the offices of an entertainment union and told a worker that he was going to "just shoot" her.

A worker at the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists wrote in declaration accompanying Crow's filing that she spoke with Sparks on July 16 and he made the threat against Crow. He also threatened to shoot film executive Harvey Weinstein because he believed they were filming him and stole millions from him, the worker stated.

The temporary order was granted July 24 and first reported Monday by celebrity website TMZ. A hearing on a three-year protective order is scheduled for Aug. 14 in Santa Monica, Calif.

Duchess dazzles
at star-studded London arts event

LONDON (AP)—Art was the subject but the Duchess of Cambridge was the star.

Prince William's wife dazzled onlookers Monday as she met Prime Minister David Cameron and dozens of British artists on the fringe of the London Olympics.

Trumpeters heralded her arrival on the Royal Academy of Arts red carpet to mingle with 800 people from the British music, film, arts and entertainment industries.

The duchess tied her long hair back and wore a dove gray dress by Serbian designer Roksanda Ilincic.

Other guests included fashion designer Stella McCartney, film director Terry Gilliam, model Lily Cole and singers Katy B and Roger Daltrey.

Earlier Monday, William and Kate watched his cousin Zara Phillips race in the Olympic eventing horse competition. The royal couple plan to attend more than 30 Olympic events.

Kate, Duchess of Cambridge arrives at the Royal Academy of Arts in London for the UK creative industries reception hosted by the British Government supported by the Founders Forum, Monday, July 30, 2012.
AP

Keith postpones concert date after surgery

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Surgery has briefly sidelined country star Toby Keith.

Keith has had his gallbladder removed and was forced to reschedule his show Thursday at Fort McCoy in Sparta, Wis. That concert date has been rescheduled to Aug. 30.

A Monday news release says the 51-year-old Oklahoma native will resume his "Live in Overdrive" tour Friday at the WE Fest in Detroit Lakes, Minn. Keith's spokeswoman says he is doing fine after the outpatient procedure.

While Keith won't be able to make the Aug. 2 show at Fort McCoy, Gretchen Wilson and others will continue with the concert.

Cheney, Pryor get Showtime 'Closeup' profiles

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Showtime says it's launching a new documentary showcase, with Dick Cheney and the late Richard Pryor among the first to be profiled.

The cable channel told the Television Critics Association on Monday that the series titled "Closeup" will offer provocative studies of culturally significant people.

Among the first films will be "The World According to Dick Cheney," which Showtime described as a measured, complex look at President George W. Bush's vice president. Other documentaries include "Richard Pryor: Omit the Logic" and "Suge Knight: American Dream-American Knightmare."

Filmmaker Brett Ratner ("Rush Hour") will profile music mogul Tommy Mottola, who has worked with stars including Michael Jackson, Diana Ross and Mariah Carey. Mottola and Carey divorced after five years of marriage.

Air dates for the "Closeup" documentaries were not immediately announced.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Weeds' finale to air Sept. 16; 'Big C' to wrap

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The end is near for Showtime's "Weeds" and "The Big C." The cable channel said Monday that the series finale of "Weeds," the drug comedy starring Mary-Louise Parker, will air Sept. 16. "The Big C," which stars Laura Linney as a woman facing cancer, will wrap its run with four one-hour episodes, Showtime said. Air dates for the final "Big C" episodes were not announced. Two Showtime dramas, "Homeland" and "Dexter," will begin their new seasons on Sept. 30, the channel told a meeting of the Television Critics Association. On tap later this year on Showtime: a 10-part documentary titled "Oliver Stone's Untold History of the United States." Stone's take on American history will debut Nov. 12.

ABC pulls Fred Willard improv show after arrest

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Fred Willard's improv series is a wipeout with ABC. The network is pulling the last two original episodes of "Trust Us With Your Life," a move that comes two weeks after Willard's lewd conduct arrest at an adult movie theater. Reruns of ABC's "Wipeout" will replace the Tuesday show hosted by Willard. The 72-year-old actor already had lost his job as narrator of a new PBS series, "Market Warriors." In an appearance last week on Jimmy Fallon's late-night show, Willard said he was embarrassed by his July 18 arrest but insisted he had done nothing wrong. The Los Angeles City Attorney's office determined that Willard's case was eligible for a diversion program that will keep him from being formally charged with lewd conduct if he completes the required courses.

Masked Mexican thief hits cinemas showing Batman

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Prosecutors in northern Mexico say a man wearing a ski mask and carrying a gun robbed two theaters showing the Batman movie "The Dark Knight Rises." The spokesman for prosecutors in the border state of Chihuahua said Monday the man went to the ticket booths and demanded the ticket money. Spokesman Carlos Gonzalez said the man was dressed in black. No injuries were reported in the Sunday robberies. The shows apparently went on. Showings of the movie have been accompanied by heightened security concerns after a gunman opened fire in a theater in Colorado in July, killing 12 and injuring dozens. In late July, people were evacuated from a showing of "The Dark Knight Rises" in western Mexico after a fire broke out in a garbage container outside the theater.

Online hit 'Dr. Horrible' to debut on CW TV Oct. 9

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Dr. Horrible is coming to television. The CW network says the 2008 online hit "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog" will air as an hour-long special in October. The musical stars Neil Patrick Harris ("How I Met Your Mother") as Billy, aka Dr. Horrible, an inept would-be villain trying for world domination. Nathan Fillion ("Castle") co-stars as Dr. Horrible's nemesis, Captain Hammer. Felicia Day plays Penny, Dr. Horrible's crush. "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog" was directed and co-written by Joss Whedon ("The Avengers," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"). It's scheduled to air on CW on Oct. 9.

Straying husband could have picked up more than a hooker

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I found out my husband has been corresponding with prostitutes he picked up when we went on vacation. He emailed them twice, but the second one hurt me the most. He sent her money. I confronted him and was ready to end the marriage, but we have a son.

He denied having sexual contact with the women and said he was just flirting, so I forgave him. But I told him I won't tolerate it a third time. He agreed to have marriage counseling and do his part to convince me he will change.

Is it worth it to try again for the sake of our son? I don't trust him anymore, but I still love him.

READY TO LET GO

DEAR READY: When a man gives money to a hooker, it's usually for a reason. The reason isn't charity; it's for services he wants rendered. (And they don't take money in arrears.)

No one can decide for you whether or not to stay in the marriage, but before making any decisions, make it your first priority to contact your doctor and be checked for STDs. Who knows what your husband might have picked up while "flirting."

If you do decide to remain in the marriage, you'd be wise to schedule regular appointments for STD check-ups. Your husband has shown himself to be not only a philanderer but also a liar.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been meaning to write to you for a long time. Now that we have gone through another year of Mother's Day and Father's Day, would you PLEASE acknowledge those of us who did NOT have a parent who deserved to be honored? SOME PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE PARENTS! I dread these commercialized days every year. Our planet does not lack for population. We don't need more people.

There are horror stories every day in the media about child abuse, yet you honor these people without qualification. For those who have parents who deserve to be honored, I'm happy for you. But the celebration is only salt in the wounds of those of us who wish we'd never been born.

ONE OF THEM IN LONGMONT, COLO.

DEAR ONE OF THEM: I agree that the commercialization of certain holidays can be painful for those who cannot join in the celebration. This would include children and adults who were abused or neglected by their parents, as well as those who no longer have living parents.

I doubt many people remain childless for the public good. Usually there are deeply personal reasons for it. For people who are childless by choice, every day is an affirmation of their decision. However, for those who want children and cannot have them, their loss can be excruciating.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Can you give any advice for a male in his 50s who is still a virgin, who is afraid of being intimate and hasn't even kissed a girl since high school? Is it OK to live and enjoy life this way, or is sex something that every human should experience?

CURIOUS IN FLORIDA

DEAR CURIOUS: If someone is happy and enjoying life having never had sexual relations, then it's OK. However, if you are still a virgin because of fear of intimacy, this is something to discuss with a psychologist to help you understand what caused your fear and inability to trust, because you could be getting more out of life than you have settled for.

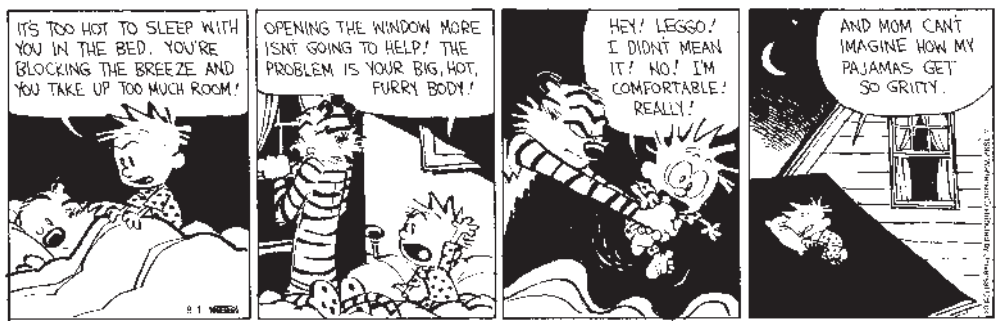
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

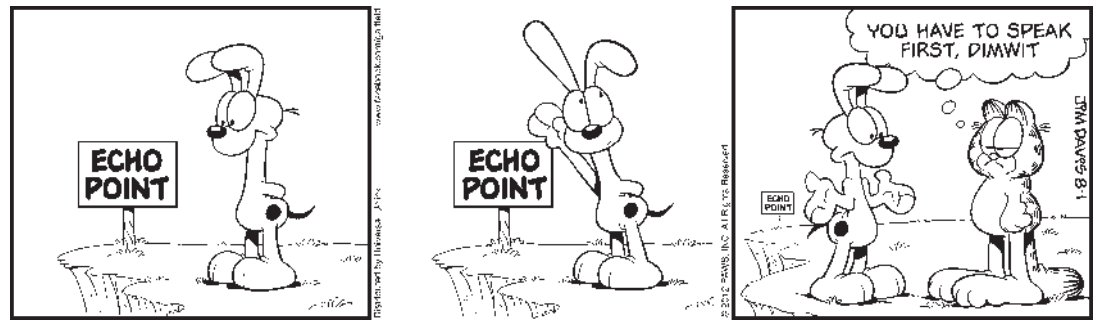
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IT'S TOO HOT TO SLEEP WITH YOU IN THE BED. YOU'RE BLOCKING THE BREEZE AND YOU TAKE UP TOO MUCH ROOM!
OPENING THE WINDOW MORE ISN'T GOING TO HELP! THE PROBLEM IS YOUR BIG, HOT, FURRY BODY!
HEY! LEGGO! I DIDN'T MEAN IT! NO! I'M COMFORTABLE! REALLY!
AND MOM CAN'T IMAGINE HOW MY PAJAMAS GET SO GRITTY.

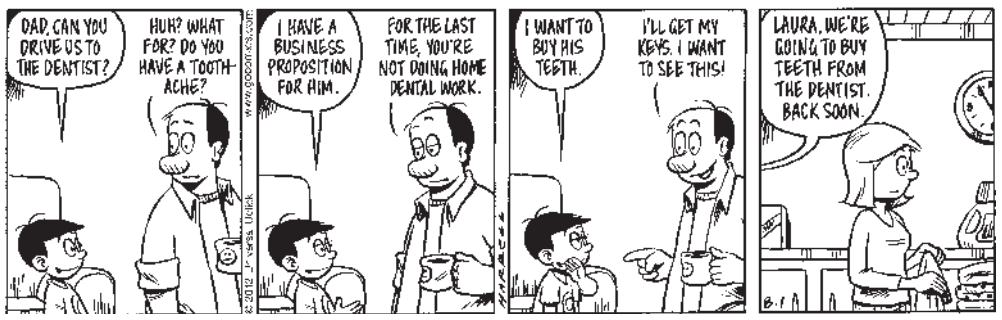
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



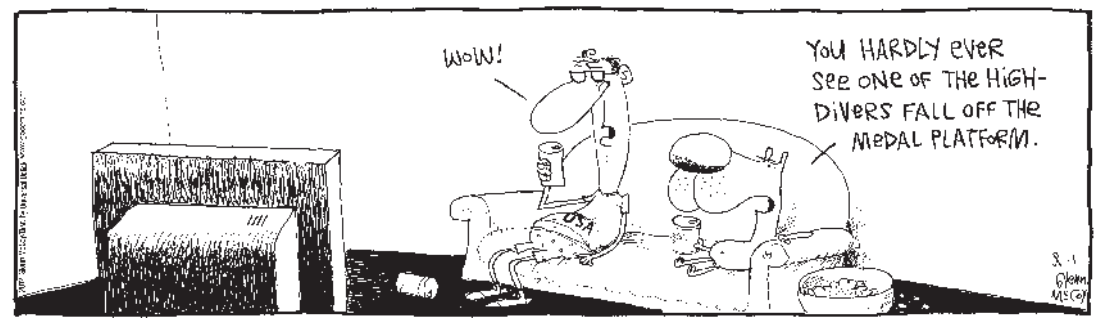
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD, CAN YOU DRIVE US TO THE DENTIST?
HUH? WHAT FOR? DO YOU HAVE A TOOTHACHE?
I HAVE A BUSINESS PROPOSITION FOR HIM.
FOR THE LAST TIME, YOU'RE NOT DOING HOME DENTAL WORK.
I WANT TO BUY HIS TEETH.
I'LL GET MY KEYS. I WANT TO SEE THIS!
LAURA, WE'RE GOING TO BUY TEETH FROM THE DENTIST. BACK SOON.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

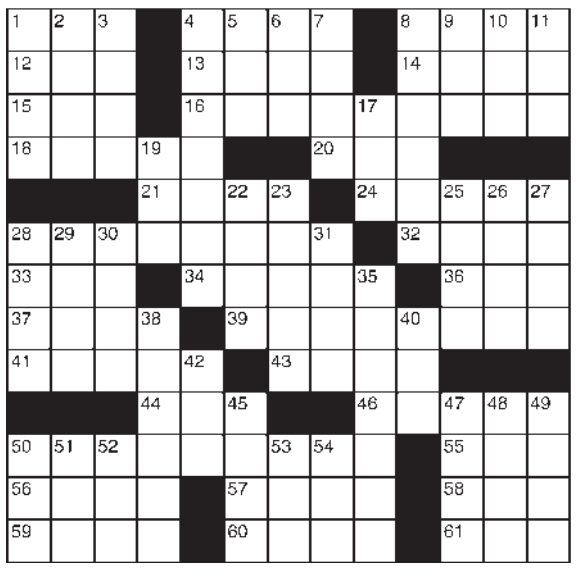
ACROSS
1 Pod occupant
4 "Scram!"
8 A really long time
12 Hooter
13 War-monger
14 Flew the — (fled)
15 Encountered
16 All things U.S.
18 Full of self-esteem
20 Consumed
21 Punch
24 Sudden outburst
28 Its capital is Gaborone
32 Jog
33 "Hail, Caesar!"
34 Impales
36 Charged bit
37 Keg contents
39 Kuznetsova of tennis
41 Cancel
43 To be (Fr.)
44 "Family Guy" daughter
46 Glorify
50 Vaudeville star
55 Past
56 Satanic
57 Astringent
58 WWW address
59 Copenhagen native
60 Spiders' creations
61 Earl Grey, for one

DOWN
1 "— and Circumstance"
2 Basin accessory
3 Countertenor
4 Follows secretly
5 Lunch meat
6 Have bills
7 Gumbo need
8 Take
9 — long way (last)
10 Many millennia
11 Hot tub
17 "Monty Python" intro
19 Constitution letters
22 Long-running musical
23 Jack
25 Operatic solo
26 Roger Rabbit, for one
27 Sicilian spouter
28 Ali —
29 Microwave
30 Adolescent
31 Help in wrongdoing
35 Rills
38 Gang warfare
40 Superman foe Luthor
42 Meadow
45 Constantly chew at
47 Lacking slack
48 Shrek is one
49 Kinks hit
50 Danson or Koppel
51 Eggs
52 Wrestling coup
53 Kin of 37-Across
54 Gist

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	M	I	R	■	C	L	E	F	■	M	O	W	
C	O	N	E	■	A	I	D	A	■	O	N	E	
H	O	N	F	Y	M	O	O	N	■	O	U	R	
■	■	■	K	E	E	N	■	S	E	N	S	E	
A	D	M	E	N	■	■	B	O	G	S	■	■	
G	O	O	D	■	B	R	O	U	G	H	A	M	
O	N	O	■	C	R	E	S	T	■	I	V	E	
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	S	■	A	N	O	N	
■	■	L	O	O	N	■	■	B	L	E	N	D	
C	H	I	N	O	■	V	E	A	U	■	■	■	
R	A	G	■	K	E	I	■	H	M	O	O	N	
E	T	H	■	E	L	S	A	■	N	I	C	E	
W	E	I	■	D	I	A	L	■	A	L	I	O	

Yesterday's answer 8-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Momoa, 33; Tempestt Bledsoe, 39; Sam Mendes, 47; Adam Duritz, 48.

Happy Birthday: Step into the spotlight and show everyone what you can do. Your insight, ability and strong sense of justice will help to draw attention to your concerns. Keep close tabs on your expenses and what others expect of you. A commitment can be made, as long as you maintain equality. Love is highlighted. Your numbers are 2, 7, 16, 29, 31, 33, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get involved in events that motivate you. Pampering, shopping or a day trip will give you a new lease on life. Boosting your confidence will help you take action, bringing the kind of results you've been searching for. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Choose your battles carefully. Don't waste time on something you cannot achieve or win. Focus on what's possible, and refuse to let anyone tie up your time or limit you. Avoid any situation that may alter your home and personal life negatively. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick to basics. Socializing is highlighted, and a chance to meet some interesting people and participate in activities you find challenging and exciting will lead to new opportunities. Visiting entertaining friends should be scheduled. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Avoid limiting your freedom by getting involved in secret activities. Don't give out information that may incriminate you or jeopardize your current status or position. Stick to the truth and keep your distance from unreliable individuals. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Accept the inevitable and enjoy whatever comes your way. Your ability to go with the flow will impress someone who has an intriguing offer. Don't forget to read the fine print before you make a commitment. An affectionate encounter looks promising. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep everything you do out in the open to avoid being held responsible for the actions of someone else. A problem will develop that can alter the way you feel about someone you have been close to personally or professionally. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You have more options than you think. Don't waste time thinking about what to do next. Take a leap of faith and you'll bring about greater opportunities, along with new ideas, friendships and experience. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't share personal information. Add more detail and perfect your ideas before you present what you have to offer. Develop an idea that has potential. Work quietly behind the scenes and you will continue to move in a positive direction. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take action, show off and have some fun. A financial opportunity will develop through a contract, settlement or service you offer. Spend time with someone from a different background and you will pick up original ideas. Make time for romance. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone may try to fool you. Research will reveal that you don't need to spend as much as you've been led to believe. Create a set of rules that enables you to follow your own path. Don't let someone from your past lead you astray. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The path of least resistance can be for the best. Settle any unfinished business standing in the way of progress. A romantic relationship can help stabilize your life personally and financially. A residential move looks promising. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep personal information private. Someone may take advantage of you or make you look bad. Deal with responsibilities quickly. Consider the motives behind what someone is offering before you decide to move forward. Self-deception is apparent. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, charming and goal-oriented. You are sensitive and caring.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6					
	4		1		8		5	
		9				7		
			8		6			
5			7	9	3		1	2
1	8			5		9	7	
	1	2		3	7	6		
			9	8				
				4				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	9	8	5	7	6	2	3
6	7	3	4	9	2	5	8	1
5	8	2	6	3	1	4	7	9
2	9	7	3	4	8	1	6	5
3	6	5	7	1	9	8	4	2
4	1	8	2	6	5	3	9	7
9	2	4	5	8	3	7	1	6
8	3	1	9	7	6	2	5	4
7	5	6	1	2	4	9	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

VALRHONA CHOCOLATE Solution: 8 letters

T	G	S	K	A	T	H	S	H	C	N	U	P	E	M
P	R	R	M	T	B	T	C	O	T	F	I	G	S	A
O	A	O	A	O	U	I	O	N	F	A	A	R	R	C
D	R	S	P	N	R	K	S	E	E	T	R	H	A	A
A	T	A	T	E	D	E	H	C	I	R	O	T	B	R
Y	B	A	(N)	R	Z	C	S	M	U	N	F	O	E	O
U	I	(O)	I	G	I	I	R	E	E	I	S	O	F	O
N	(Y)	N	N	R	E	E	E	U	R	E	T	M	F	N
(L)	K	C	E	B	H	C	S	N	S	A	I	S	E	S
P	D	B	A	L	O	O	M	S	N	S	U	T	V	P
E	L	N	F	C	U	N	U	A	B	E	R	Q	E	R
A	C	L	O	F	I	O	S	I	R	E	F	C	S	E
R	A	A	F	M	M	L	N	E	A	B	A	R	K	A
L	K	L	P	E	L	L	E	T	S	N	L	N	S	D
S	E	G	N	I	K	A	B	D	E	S	S	E	R	T

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Alberic, Almond, Aroma, Baking, Bark, Bars, Bean, Biscuits, Bonbons, Cake, Chef, Cocoa, Cook, Dark, Delicacy, Dessert, Drink, Fèves, French, Fruits, Gift, Grand Cru, L'Hermitage, Lyon, Macaroons, Marble, Mousse, Nibs, Nuts, Orange, Pastries, Pearls, Pecan, Pellets, Punch, Rhone, Smooth, S'Mores, Soufflé, Spread, Squares, Tain, Tarte, Tasty, Treat, Tropezienne

Yesterday's Answer: Unhitched

The NEW Treasury to be published by sending a check or money order for $15.95 and up to 50 postage and handling ($4.95 total U.S. funds only) for the first book, $7.00 for each additional book to Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-2406. Orders outside the United States must include payment of the larger of $9.50 or actual postage.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

8 Masseuse–Royal Thai Massage. 1 yr experience, green card or US citizen preferred pls call 234-2521.

JTS Distribution is looking for (1) Graphic Artist with a Four year Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. Must have at least 5 years experience. Call Joe or April at 789-7575.

LOOKING FOR JOB

I have 10 yrs exp. in driving heavy-duty tractors & buses. Simple English, hard work, fast learner. Can do all kinds of job. Tel. 287-6686.

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TVs, Washer & Dryer, 6500W Generator, Wide Screen Computer Monitors, Computer Desks, 3x Dining Tables, Power Tools, Kitchen Wares, etc. Pls call 323-1217

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:	)	FCD AD NO. 12-0361
	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
DANIEL JOSEPH LISUA CELIS	)	
Minor Child	)	
By:	)	
ILLUMINANDA REYES BERMUDES	)	
Petitioner.	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing August 20, 2012 at 1:30pm in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

Dated this 30th day of July, 2012.

Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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China grabs gold, Brits steal show in gymnastics

AP

Chinese gymnasts, left to right, Feng Zhe, Guo Weiyang, Chen Yibing, Zhang Chenglong and Zou Kai raise their hands during the medal ceremony of the Artistic Gymnastic men's team final at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Monday, July 30, 2012, in London. China won the gold.

LONDON (AP)—Chen Yibing couldn't quite help himself. He needed to gloat. A little at least.

When asked how a team that looked like a bit of a hot mess—at least by its lofty standards—in men's gymnastics during qualifying on Saturday could turn it around so suddenly and win a second straight Olympic gold so convincingly on Monday night, Yibing smiled and smacked his hands together.

"Perfect!" he said in English.

Maybe not, but then again, perfection was hardly required. Not with expected contenders Japan and the United States finding interesting ways to let gold slip from their grasp.

The Japanese needed a little help from the judges to earn silver. The U.S., so spectacular during qualifying, faded to fifth.

The only team besides China that seemed capable of rising to the occasion was Britain—yes, Britain—which earned its first team medal in a century by grabbing bronze.

It felt like something considerably shinier to the host nation, which had been pointing toward this meet from the moment London was awarded the games seven years ago.

The last time the Brits had medaled in the team competition came in 1912, when they earned bronze a few months after the Titanic sunk.

"The beauty of what we've got is that this team isn't a one-hit wonder," said Britain's Louis Smith, the team captain and unquestioned leader.

Considering a British gymnast has won the last six junior European championships, Smith's not kidding.

Still, while the Brits have closed the gap between themselves and the rest of the sport's elite, one thing remains clear. Nobody beats China when Olympic gold is on the line.

Nobody.

Sure, China hardly looked like its normal efficient self as it bumbled through qualifying on Saturday. It hardly mattered on Monday. Qualifying is just practice to the Chinese, something to pass the time. The finals are what counts, and no country does it better when it matters most than the one that has now won three of the last four Olympic titles.

Were the Chinese bothered by their abysmal performance in qualifying? Maybe a little. And no, they weren't sandbagging. At least they claim they weren't.

"This is not a smoke because if that's the way then that would not be serious," Zou Kai said. "We did want to make it to the finals."

That was never really in question. Neither was China's second straight Olympic title. Their total of 275.997 well clear of the field.

The uncharacteristic miscues that marred their preliminary round, when they finished sixth, they vanished. The Chinese were their typical steadily spectacular selves.

It's what they do. It's what they've seemingly always done.

"Our coach and our fellow colleagues created a history," Yibing said. "In the future we will have more new rising stars."

Who's going to argue? Though the 27-year-old Yibing is unlikely to be around when the games head to Rio de Janeiro in 2016, there's another crop right behind him.

Whoever inherits the mantle from Yibing and company will have to find a way to deal with an increasingly unstable landscape. The Japanese squeaked out silver when judges adjusted three-time defending world all-around champion Kohei Uchimura's score on pommel horse, providing the 0.7-point boost necessary to hold off Britain.

The judges ruled upon review that Uchimura should receive credit for his dismount, providing his score with the points necessary to keep the Japanese on the medal stand.

Barely. And Japan failed to overcome their rivals. Again.

"We practiced just like we thought but this is the Olympics and this is a special environment and we really couldn't do as we planned," Uchimura said. "It was really difficult."

Maybe, but not really to the home team. The Brits—with Prince William and Harry cheering them on and Union Jacks in full sail throughout the O2 Arena—leaned on Smith early then relied on their own rising stars to climb into third and cement themselves as an emerging power in a sport long considered an afterthought.

"It's a beautiful day for the sport of British gymnastics," Smith said.

Not so much for the Americans.

The U.S. had touted this group as their deepest in more than a generation, a team capable of winning gold for the first time since the boycotted Los Angeles games in 1984.

The Americans certainly looked capable during qualifying, posting the top score and performing with such confidence veteran Jon Horton joked afterward if the U.S. could just get its gold from the finals and save everyone a lot of time.

The answer, of course, was no. And the U.S. saw its hopes of a medal of any shade evaporate immediately. Sam Mikulak wobbled on floor exercise. Danell Leyva and John Orozco bobbled on pommel horse. And the U.S. spent the second half of the meet futilely trying to make up lost ground.

Though the Americans rallied from last to fifth, it was of small consolation.

"There's nothing we could have really done differently," Mikulak said. "We're a young team. We've never experienced anything like this before."

True. Leyva and Jake Dalton are 20. Mikulak and Orozco are 19. They will be around for awhile.

Then again, so will the Brits. While this probably marked the final games for the 23-year-old Smith, youngsters Sam Oldham and Max Whitlock are 19. The junior ranks are packed with precocious talent that no longer views the chance to compete on a world stage as something of a pipe dream.

"The juniors we've got coming through, there's so much depth," Smith said. "Now everyone is going to be more motivated than ever."

So are the Chinese. The names change but the results seemingly never do. They have ruled the sport for the past decade, winning every major international team competition since 2005.

The streak will end someday. Just not yet. Yes, the Brits are better than they've ever been. True, the Japanese have the best gymnast in the world.

They're just not the best team. Again.

"Our rivals are still the same one," China's Zhang Chenglong said. "We still keep a very cool mind."

The Chinese always do.

2 medals for Phelps would cinch Olympic history

LONDON (AP)—Michael Phelps is chasing more Olympic history in his next two events at the London Games. Winning medals in the 200-meter butterfly and a relay would let him get it done in the same night.

Phelps goes into Tuesday night's fly final with the fourth-fastest time in his signature race. He'll try for the second time to become the first male swimmer to win the same individual event in three straight Olympics.

He failed in the 400 individual medley, and Japan's Kosuke Kitajima came up short of the same feat in the 100 breaststroke.

Phelps already has the most gold medals of any Olympian—14—and eclipsed Mark Spitz's record with eight wins in Beijing four years ago. He could tie Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina's record of 18 career medals in the 200 fly, and he would own the mark outright if the U.S. makes the podium the 4x200 free relay.

So far in his farewell Olympics, Phelps earned his first career silver medal in the 4x100 free relay after finishing fourth in his first event, the 400 individual medley.

The 4x200 relay will give Ryan Lochte a chance to get back on track after two straight disappointments. He got passed swimming the anchor leg of the 4x100 free relay and then he finished fourth in the 200 free on Monday.

"I did my best," Lochte said. "I guess sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. I gave it 110 percent. There's probably some things I messed up on, but you live and learn."

The 200 free was won by Yannick Agnel of France in a followup to his winning anchor leg that beat Lochte a night earlier. He led all the way in beating a loaded field, although Phelps wasn't in it after he decided to skip defending his Olympic title.

Agnel won in 1 minute, 43.14 seconds.

"I really didn't expect that time," he said. "I had a race plan in my head, but this is above my expectations and hopes. I had to start quickly over the first 100 meters. I did that. Then I worked on keeping my speed and putting all my guts into the last 50."

French President Francois Hollande congratulated Agnel, shaking his hand warmly in the noisy chaos of reporters and cameras in the mixed zone. The medal was the third swimming gold of the games for the country—its most ever.

South Korea's Park Tae-hwan and China's Sun Yang tied for the silver in 1:44.93. Lochte and world record-holder Paul Biedermann of Germany were shut out of the medals.

The U.S. dominated the backstroke events, with teenager Missy Franklin winning the women's 100 and teammates Matt Grevers and Nick Thoman going 1-2 in the men's race.

Franklin has a relay bronze and her first individual gold, with five more events to swim.

She had an incredibly busy night, advancing out of the 200 free semifinals with the eighth-fastest time and then returning less than 14 minutes later to win the 100 back.

"What kind of high school kid can do that?" teammate Breeja Larson said. "She is incredible. She is the one that is going to lead us into the swimming world next."

Phelps was suitably impressed with Franklin's stamina, saying he had never done back-to-back races that close together at such a major meet. His quickest turnaround was about a half-hour.

"She's a racer and she knows what to do," he said.

Franklin won in 58.33 seconds. Emily Seebohm of Australia took the silver in 58.68 and Japan's Aya Terakawa earned bronze in 58.83.

Like Franklin, Grevers rallied on his closing lap to win the men's 100 back in an Olympic-record 52.16. The U.S. men have won the event in every Olympics since the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Thoman took the silver in 52.97, and Japan's Ryosuke Irie was third in 52.97.

Franklin wasn't the only teen queen in the pool.

Fifteen-year-old Ruta Meilutyte won the 100 breaststroke to give Lithuania its first swimming gold medal. She won in 1:05.47, holding off 2008 silver medalist Rebecca Soni of the U.S., whose trademark late speed wasn't enough this time.

Soni fell eight-hundredths of a second short. Japan's Satomi Suzuki took the bronze in 1:06.46.

Morales and Angels romp past Rangers, 15-8

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Los Angeles' Kendrys Morales homered from both sides of the plate during a nine-run sixth inning, capping the burst with a grand slam that sent the Angels romping past the Texas Rangers 15-8 in Monday's clash of American League West contenders.

Morales became the third switch-hitter in major league history to homer as a lefty and righty in the same inning. Carlos Baerga did it for Cleveland in 1993 and Mark Bellhorn of the Chicago Cubs in 2002.

The Angels won the opener of the four-game series and closed within four games of AL West-leading Texas.

AP

Los Angeles Angels designated hitter Kendrys Morales watches his two-run homer hit as a lefty fly away during the sixth inning of baseball game against the Texas Rangers Monday, July 30, 2012, in Arlington, Texas.

Orioles 5, Yankees 4

In New York, Nick Markakis drove in two runs as Baltimore edged New York.

Orioles rookie starter Miguel Gonzalez (3-2) cruised through 6 2-3 innings, giving up just four hits before he was chased by consecutive homers.

Ichiro Suzuki had a chance to tie it for the Yankees with two runners on in the ninth against Orioles closer Jim Johnson, but grounded into a fielder's choice. Johnson earned his 31st save of the season.

New York starter Freddy Garcia (4-5) tied a season worst by allowing nine hits in six innings.

Athletics 4, Rays 3

In Oakland, Jemile Weeks hit a sacrifice fly in the 15th inning that gave Oakland a marathon win over Tampa Bay.

Weeks was 0 for 7 when he came up against the Rays' five-man infield. He lofted a fly ball and Brandon Inge easily beat the throw home.

It was the A's major league-leading 12th walkoff win this season.

Red Sox 7, Tigers 3

In Boston, Dustin Pedroia hit a tiebreaking homer and drove in three runs to lead Boston to its third straight win.

The Red Sox opened a 10-game homestand—their longest of the season.

Boston starter Clay Buchholz (9-3) allowed two earned runs in eight innings, improving to 5-1 with a 2.43 ERA in his past eight starts.

Tigers starter Max Scherzer (10-6) gave up five runs in 6 1-3 innings.

Twins 7, White Sox 6

In Minneapolis, Jamey Caroll's sacrifice fly in the ninth inning lifted Minnesota over Chicago and to its fourth straight win.

Danny Valencia led off the ninth with a single off reliever Brett Myers (0-1). A.J. Pierzynski's throw to first after fielding a bunt sailed into right field, allowing each runner to move up.

Carroll followed with a fly ball to right, allowing Alexi Casilla to slide in with the winning run ahead of Alex Rios' throw.

Mariners 4, Blue Jays 1

In Seattle, Hisashi Iwakuma struck out a career-high 13, steering Seattle past Toronto and to its fifth straight win.

Iwakuma (2-2) struck out Rajai Davis three straight times after allowing Davis' leadoff homer.

Iwakuma's 13 strikeouts broke the Mariners' rookie record of 12 previously shared by Mark Langston, Randy Johnson and Freddy Garcia. Iwakuma threw eight innings.

Michael Saunders and Kyle Seager had two hits apiece for the Mariners.

Toronto starter Ricky Romero (8-8) lost his seventh consecutive start, giving up eight hits over six innings.

Diamondbacks 7, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Chris Johnson hit a grand slam in his first game with Arizona and Paul Goldschmidt hit a three-run shot in the first inning and that was enough for the Diamondbacks to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Johnson, acquired Sunday in a trade with Houston, started at third base and gave the D-backs a 7-0 lead with his second career slam. It followed a two-out intentional walk to Miguel Montero, who has a strong record against Dodgers pitcher Aaron Harang, who gave up all seven Arizona runs.

Diamondbacks starter Trevor Cahill (9-9) allowed one run over six innings, helping Arizona close within 3-1/2 games of Los Angeles and San Francisco atop the NL West.

Braves 8, Marlins 2

In Atalnta, Jason Heyward homered and scored three runs as Atlanta snapped a curious string of 16 straight losses on Mondays, including 12 this season, by beating Miami.

Starting pitcher Tommy Hanson (12-5) was the only Atlanta player or coach who did not wear high socks in an apparent attempt to end the Monday curse. He gave up one run in five innings.

The Braves, coming off a three-game sweep of the Phillies, have won six straight to move a season-best 14 games over .500, trailing first-placed Washington by 3 1/2 games in the National League East.

Miami starter Mark Buehrle (9-10) gave up six runs in 4 1-3 innings.

Padres 11, Reds 5

In Cincinnati, Will Venable drove in four runs as San Diego ended Cincinnati's 10-game winning streak.

Padres starter Edinson Volquez (7-7) got the win and Yonder Alonso tied a team record with three doubles as former Reds haunted their old team.

Cincinnati starter Mike Leake (4-7) retired just five batters in his shortest start. The Reds walked a season-high 11. Rookie catcher Devin Mesoraco was ejected for arguing ball-and-strike calls. He poked at the plate umpire's chest protector and bumped him before leaving.

Mets 8, Giants 7, 10 innings

In San Francisco, Scott Hairston hit his second homer of the game, connecting in the 10th inning to send New York past reeling San Francisco.

The Giants have lost five in a row, all at home. They lead the NL West by one percentage point over the Dodgers.

Hairston hit a two-run homer in the eighth as the Mets scored four times for a 6-4 lead, only for the hosts to tie it with a pair of doubles in the bottom of the ninth.

After Hairston's solo homer in the 10th the Mets scored again on an error. The Giants got a run in their half before Mets closer Manny Acosta ended it, earning his first save.

Santiago Casilla (4-5) took the loss. Josh Edgin (1-0) got his first major league victory.

Cubs 14, Pirates 4

In Chicago, Anthony Rizzo and Darwin Barney hit three-run homers to power Chicago to its highest-scoring game of the season, trouncing Pittsburgh.

Rizzo's shot off Erik Bedard (5-12) keyed a nine-run fifth inning, Chicago's biggest burst of the year. Rizzo leads all NL rookies with a .330 average, eight homers and 20 RBIs since being recalled from the minors last week.

The Cubs have won 11 of their past 13 home games.

Chicago starter Justin Germano (1-1) gave up two runs over five innings for his first win since 2007, when he was with San Diego.

Brewers 8, Astros 7

In Milwaukee, Cody Ransom's homer capped a four-run burst in the eighth inning and Milwaukee held off Houston.

The Brewers dismissed bullpen coach Stan Kyles before the game, then watched their shaky relievers barely preserve this victory.

Milwaukee scored four times in the seventh for a 4-3 edge, but the Astros tied it in the eighth against Livan Hernandez (4-1). Ransom's three-run shot gave the Brewers an 8-4 lead in the bottom half before Houston rallied for three runs in the ninth.

John Axford got J.D. Martinez to ground out with runners at the corners to end the game.

Tunisia men next on menu for US Olympic hoop team

LONDON (AP)—With a massive budget, the U.S. Olympic men's basketball team has a treasure trove of information on its opponents. There are scouting reports, game films, statistical breakdowns—anything and everything a coach or player needs to prepare for any upcoming game.

So, with the Americans getting ready for their second preliminary-round game, forward Kevin Love was asked what he knew about Tunisia.

"Not much," he said.

He and his U.S. teammates are about to find out.

Coming off a less-than-stellar, but still impressive 27-point win over France in its tournament opener, the U.S. team will play Tunisia on Tuesday night in what has the potential to be a blowout of epic proportions. The U.S. and Tunisia have only met once previously with the Americans romping to a 92-57 win at the 2010 world championships in Istanbul after leading by only six points at halftime.

During Monday's practice, the U.S. team got familiar with Tunisia's offensive sets and will be briefed on the African champion's personnel before taking the court. What the Americans will learn is that Tunisian team is tall with seven players on its roster over 6-foot-8.

Other than that, there may be no worries.

And although the game will likely turn into nothing more than a prolonged dunk contest for the Americans, U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski won't let his team relax—or lower its gold standard.

"It's about our performance," he said. "We should beat Tunisia, but we want to play well against Tunisia. When you play games in your pool and you're a significant favorite, you don't want to just win, you want to maintain and build good habits. We don't want to overlook anybody because then we overlook ourselves. And in short period of time you can fall into a bad habit that will have its impact on a game where you're not a significant favorite."

Among the many positives to come out of the win over France was the re-emergence of Love.

After struggling during most of the pre-Olympic exhibition tour, Love gave the U.S. a spark off the bench, scoring 14 points on 5-of-8 shooting. A member of the 2010 world title team, Love hadn't figured out his role on this squad but is beginning to understand he can have a major impact.

"I don't know if I've finally gotten into a rhythm," he said. "I've just had an opportunity. I got a chance and throughout my whole career I have worked as hard as I can to stay ready and I think I did that here. I think early on I couldn't really find myself in the offense - or defense for that matter. But I think now hopefully yesterday was a good omen for me going forward."

At 6-10, Love can give the U.S. inside muscle or outside firepower. He won the NBA's 3-point shooting contest at the All-Star game this year.

"We need him to be the guy he was last night, coming off the bench and getting rebounds and making outside shots," LeBron James said. "He's another big body we can use."

If there was one day to go sight-seeing, to check out Big Ben and Buckingham Palace or pick up an Olympic souvenir, Monday was it.

But with their sights set on a gold medal, this group of Americans wanted to work on a few things.

"We need to get better," James said before practice at East London University. "We know we don't have time to waste an opportunity to get better. This is a long, but short tournament. We've got to take every practice, every film session, every game and try to improve. We're not going to let our guard down no matter who we're playing against.

"We can't waste a minute going backwards. We have high goals."

Tunisia, which lost to Nigeria in its first Olympic game, doesn't figure to be anything more than a punching bag for the Americans to bludgeon. The U.S. might be able to name its score against a Tunisian squad ranked No. 32 in the world and without any NBA players on its roster. It could be more of the same on Thursday against Nigeria.

However, Krzyzewski believes the opponent is inconsequential. It's about the U.S. playing up to its potential—and then some. There's a standard to be met, an expectation that comes with being the best. Krzyzewski likened it to an actor on Broadway.

"You have a performance to give, you know," said Krzyzewski, who would never demean any team. "Are you doing it on a Wednesday matinee, a Saturday night? It's not who you're playing. You should never judge how you're going to perform or potentially who you're going to play against. You are the person performing, your team is performing. You never want to get into the habit of just getting by, because eventually you don't get by."

After Sunday's game, French forward Nicolas Batum called the U.S. beatable and rattled off Brazil, Argentina and Spain as teams which could upset the U.S.

Kobe Bryant wasn't aware of the comments, but he agreed with them.

"He's right," Bryant. "Everybody does have a shot to beat us, absolutely."

And he meant it.

RACE

From Page 28

a scholarship, while Jones, who is expected to gain a wild card entry in POJC, arrived in Fiji late in June to compete in a separate tournament and train, too. Minor is in Australia and will stay there for three days before going to Fiji to reunite with her teammates for the Aug. 6 to 10 tournament.

The 11 Commonwealth netters will team up with a few players from Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The CNMI-led North team will play in the U12, U15, and U18 singles and doubles games against the representatives of the West (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Norfolk Island, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) and East (Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga) squads. New Caledonia will also field several players in the POJC.

"We're hoping to duplicate if not surpass our last performance in Fiji. We had six players who made it to the Top 4 last year and I hope we can repeat that," said Race.

Ackerman, Rastguiy, Miller, Lopez, Jones, and Carl Dela Cruz barged into the Final Four of the POJC last year. Tammy Ackerman gave the Commonwealth its best finish in the POJC after topping the U12 girls singles, beating Rastguiy in the all-CNMI finale. Miller also had a runner-up finish in the U15 division, while Lopez and Jones placed fourth in the girls U15 and boys U18, respectively, and Dela Cruz finished third in the boys U12.

"Some of our players are moving to a higher age group, so they are expected to meet tough competition in their new division," Race said.

Last year's U12 finalists, Rastguiy and Ackerman, will be competing in the U15, along with Lopez, while Miller is now entered in the boys U18 division.

Race is hoping that the rigorous training sessions they are having will help players moving up to a tougher competition survive the test.

"We're been training almost every day for the past two weeks. Before that, we trained three times a week. Our players are doing well in the training sessions. I think we have one of the best prepared teams this year as since dominating the North Pacific Qualifying in June, we just rested only for a couple of weeks before returning to practice," the CNMI coach added.

Race and company will leave for Fiji this Saturday and will have their last training session tomorrow.

THUNDERCATS

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the third best in the league behind Astig's 52 and IT&E's 36.

Mean Machine, which played with only five players thus have limited option on offense, got its lone goal from Mark King in the first half. With its one goal in last Monday's game, Mean Machine upped its total in six games to five.

In the U14 division, IT&E posted its second straight win over Astig Futsal, 11-5.

Dakota Hall returned to action and nailed six goals, while John Taisacan contributed three. Sun Joon Tenorio also made it to the scoreboard with a pair. IT&E, which drew its first two matches against the IP&E-sponsored Astig Futsal, got all five goals in the first half.

Astig Futsal also scored the five goals in the opening 25 minutes of the match, however all five came from Joshua Galarion.

In the men's division, IT&E was also victorious, thumping Shirley's Coffee Shop, 7-2.

A 4-0 lead in the first half was enough to ensure IT&E's second victory in six matches and snap its three-game losing streak. Nonoa Caleb and Peder drilled two goals apiece in IT&E's strong start, while Josh Borja also had a pair in the second half, and Roding Domingo logged the other goal in the final frame.

Jack Phan and Russell Zapanta had one goal each for Shirley's, which dropped from third to fourth place in the five-team field with its 1-0-4 slate.

In the women's division, IT&E Awesome forced a 1-1 draw against the league-leading Shirley's (5-2-1)

Jaime Mendoza recorded the lone goal for IT&E Awesome (1-1-5) in the second half, while Shirley's also logged its only goal in the final frame, courtesy of Irish Pagarao.

BALAN

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Camacho (23.37 lbs.).

Jacob also topped the Most Variety category with 27 species, followed by Balan (24), Rio Cayetano (21), and Camacho (19).

"The derby went off without a hitch, and everyone had a good time," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "We're extremely grateful to all the sponsors for supporting this year's event."

The derby was held from the evening of Friday, July 27, until 12pm on Sunday, July 29, at As Matmos, Malilok, and Pona Point. The event was co-sponsored by the Rota Mayor's Office, Rota Municipal Council, Rota Legislative Delegation, and Ambros Inc.

Cash prizes were awarded to the top four finishers in the categories of Biggest Fish and Total Weight ($600 first place, $300 second place, $200 third place, and $100 fourth place).

The Top 4 finishers in the Most Variety category received in-kind donations from Ambros Inc. Organizers are already looking ahead to next year's event and are hoping for an even larger turnout at the next Rota Cliff Fishing Derby, set for July 26-29, 2013. ***(MVA)***

WHAT'S

From Page 28

have facts."

Unlike the 1990s, however, there are plausible explanations this time for why China is the swimming phenomenon of the 2012 Games.

For example, Ye's astounding world record in the 400 medley, when she swam the last 50 meters faster than American Ryan Lochte did in winning the equivalent men's race, isn't solely attributable to her large hands and feet. It also is at least partly because China, which has grown to become the world's second-largest economy, now throws big checks at some of swimming's sharpest minds. China has turned to foreign trainers to get their coaching programs, expertise and methods, not only to hone its swimming stars but to make them more rounded and relaxed, too. The idea is that happy swimmers are fast swimmers.

Ye has trained in Australia with two well-recognized coaches, Ken Wood and Denis Cotterell. Wood has had a contract with the Chinese Swimming Association since 2008, and 15 of China's swimmers in London, plus five of its relay swimmers, have trained at his academy north of Brisbane, rotating through in groups for a couple of months at a time, he told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

"I get paid per month, per swimmer four times more than I do with my home swimmers," Wood said from Australia after Ye qualified comfortably fastest Monday in the 200 medley heats. China pays him bonuses for Olympic gold and for swimmers' personal bests, and he also got a bonus for Ye's 200 medley world championship win in 2011.

"China is putting a lot of money into its program and I am only too happy to work with them," he said. "The whole Chinese philosophy is that they want to be the best they can."

Not only is training overseas exposing Chinese swimmers to more sophisticated coaching, it is teaching them about life and the wider world. In Australia, they and their coaches are learning to let their hair down a bit and about themselves. For a seasoned observer of China and its state-run sport system, the worldlier Chinese swimmers performing so well in London are truly a new breed. These aren't the automatons of old, with monosyllabic stock responses about how grateful they are to their motherland and seemingly so ignorant of life outside China's government-funded medal factories with their grind of training and yet more training far from family and friends.

Sun Yang, China's first man to win an Olympic swimming gold, radiates self-assurance, spunk and zeal. The 6-foot-6 swimmer with size 45 feet roared, pounded the water with his fists, wept and remembered to thank his mom and dad—"Really great parents, they gave me so much"—after crushing defending champion Park Tae-hwan of South Korea in the 400 free. Sun is among those who have trained in Australia.

Backstroker Fu Yuanhui, a bubbly 16-year-old, turned out for her semifinal in a silly, furry, Santa Claus-type hat and a cheesy grin. Lu Ying, silver medalist behind the United States' Dana Vollmer in the 100 fly, gave a long, thoughtful answer about why Australia was such an eye-opener for her. She said she was particularly impressed by the enthusiasm of the Australian swimmers she trained with and how they balanced work and play.

"They're always having fun. They're not worrying that if they have too much fun they won't be able to move when the training gets hard. Chinese are quite particular about these things, about resting before training hard. But that isn't how they think. They think that when it's time to have fun, then you have fun," she said. "So you end up feeling that our thinking is a bit restricted too much by social conventions and taboos and that we limit ourselves and that sometimes we can't relax. Their teammates often invite them to barbecues, they eat, or their dad will often do a barbecue or breakfast and what not. And you think, 'That wouldn't happen in China.'"

Foreign expertise is also compensating for weaknesses in Chinese coaching. Wood said many top coaches in China's provinces are retired swimmers. They concentrate on stroke technique, but "are not very well up on biomechanics or any of the sport science." They also drill discipline into young swimmers early on—Wood said Ye's coach in China is "very, very tough on her"—and he's been urging them to lighten up.

"I had a good talk with her and said, 'You have to be confident and enjoy it,'" he said. "I said, 'Come on, Ye, have a joke and smile,' and we got her to crack a smile."

Wood also said the Chinese, especially the women, keep their weight down and that is the "whole secret" to their success. They come to his academy with their own chefs and shop for food in Brisbane's Chinatown.

"Fat cats don't fight; they sleep in front of the fire. And there are no fat cats in China," he said. "There's not one Chinese girl I've seen with weight on. ... That is a huge advantage for Chinese. Most of our girls, the Aussie girls, are carrying too much weight."

He said Ye's power-to-weight ratio is particularly good, and that helps explain how she was able to rip through the last 50 of her 400 IM in 28.93 seconds, compared with Lochte's 29.10. That gender-defying feat and her world record of 4 minutes, 28.43 seconds, more than any other Chinese achievement so far in London's Aquatics Centre, set tongues wagging. Lochte said he and his teammates talked about it over dinner and that "if she was there with me, she might have beat me."

"That's the one that's caused all the controversy," Wood said of that swim. Even in Australia, he is hearing muttered suspicions from London about Ye and whether China "is going back to the bad old days."

Those would include when breaststroker Yuan Yuan, a silver medalist at the 1994 world championships, was caught trying to smuggle 13 vials of banned growth hormone hidden in a thermos flask in her luggage into Australia ahead of the 1998 worlds or when seven Chinese swimmers tested positive for steroids at the 1994 Asian Games.

That decade of shame—a sports scientist at San Diego State tallied 32 Chinese swimmers caught for drug offenses in the 1990s, two of them twice—and China's subsequently victorious bid for the 2008 Olympic Games forced change and the establishment of a world-recognized anti-doping program. Still, this June the official Xinhua News Agency reported that 16-year-old Li Zhesi, who swam the last leg of China's 400 medley relay victory in world record time at the 2009 worlds, tested positive in March for EPO, a banned blood-boosting hormone.

Wood said drug testers from FINA, swimming's governing body, and the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority "have on many occasions" visited his academy unannounced to collect samples from the Chinese.

"They just come in out of the blue and they pick who they want," he said.

Ye, asked by the AP about the suspicions, gave what sounded like a stock answer. "We resolutely don't use and are resolutely opposed to doping," she said.

Wu Peng, who trains in Ann Arbor, Mich., and, at 25, is older than Ye, was more forthcoming.

"In the 1990s, the reputation of Chinese swimming wasn't good. There were a lot of doping problems. But it really is very different now. A lot of attention is paid to training. And despite breaking the world record, Ye Shiwen didn't come out of nowhere. Her results have steadily been improving," he said. "So I think it is down to training, not other methods."

"What they are saying is: 'Where did this girl come from? She came from nowhere,'" Wood said. "That's absolutely rubbish."

John Leicester is an international sports columnist for The Associated Press.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	60	42	.588	_
Baltimore	54	49	.524	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	53	49	.520	7
Boston	52	51	.505	8 1/2
Toronto	51	51	.500	9

Central Division

Chicago	55	47	.539	_
Detroit	54	49	.524	1 1/2
Cleveland	50	52	.490	5
Minnesota	44	58	.431	11
Kansas City	41	60	.406	13 1/2

West Division

Texas	59	42	.584	_
Oakland	55	46	.545	4
Los Angeles	56	47	.544	4
Seattle	48	57	.457	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	61	40	.604	_
Atlanta	58	44	.569	3 1/2
New York	50	53	.485	12
Miami	47	55	.461	14 1/2
Philadelphia	45	57	.441	16 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	61	41	.598	_
Pittsburgh	58	44	.569	3
St. Louis	54	48	.529	7
Milwaukee	46	56	.451	15
Chicago	43	58	.426	17 1/2
Houston	35	69	.337	27

West Division

San Francisco	55	47	.539	_
Los Angeles	56	48	.538	_
Arizona	52	51	.505	3 1/2
San Diego	44	60	.423	12
Colorado	37	63	.370	17

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SSS FUTSAL SUMMER LEAGUE

U18 Boys

W	D	L	GF	
Astig	4	0	0	52
IT&E	3	0	1	36
Thundercats	3	0	3	21
Mean Machine	0	0	6	5

U14 Boys

IT&E	2	2	0	19
Astig	0	2	2	9

Women's

Shirley's	5	2	1	33
Xerox	5	1	2	38
Wild Bill's	4	2	1	24
Baked Girls	3	1	3	18
IT&E Awesome	1	1	5	10
Mellow Yellow	0	1	6	10

Men's

Wild Bill's	5	0	0	59
Godfather's	5	0	1	72
IT&E	2	0	4	26
Shirley's	1	0	4	31
Go Green	1	0	5	11

CSA 2nd Budweiser Softball League awards

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Elias' B.J. Nicolas, right, accepts the Bottom Six championship trophy during the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Softball League awards ceremony held after the men's and women's championship games held last July 27 at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

6-Pack's Melvin Ada, left, and Sakudi's Eileen Babauta accept pitching awards for maintaining the lowest earned run averages.

Your Balls' J.P. Lizama, front center, stands with Sakudi's Juljen Ngeskebei, front right, pose after being selected as CSA's respective men's and women's finals most valuable players.

Your Balls' Audie Maratita, left, and Sakudi's Bert Camacho received awards for accruing the most runs batted in.

X-clusive's Vince Cepeda, front left, smiles for the camera with Sakudi's Bert Camacho after accepting the their respective men's and women's regular season most valuable player trophies.

Maelyn Naputi accepts the men's division third place trophy in behalf of Gagu Eyez.

Man Amigos' Roy Celis and Sakud's Liz Lebria scored the most runs this season.

Sakudi's Eileen Babauta and Manelo's Yubert Alepuyo, right, were crowned strikeout queen and king of the league.

670 Babes' Melissa Bejamin and Sakudi's Liz Lebria and Thelma Mizer won awards for hitting the most triples.

TSL SPORTS COMPLEX

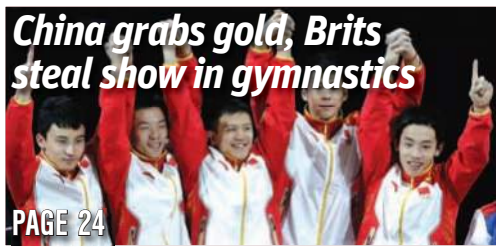
Activity Schedule for August 1, 2012

2012 Summer Soccer Camp
4th Session
8:00 AM to 9:30 AM: U10 • 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM: U8

SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL

2012 Summer Futsal League

5:30 PM:	U14 Boys' Division	Astig vs. IT&E
6:30 PM:	U18 Boys' Division	Astig vs. IT&E
7:30 PM:	Women's Division	Mellow Yellow vs. IT&E Awesome
8:30 PM:	Men's Division	Go Green vs. Godfather's



Saipan Tribune
Sports

Race has high hopes in POJC

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mikayla Lopez, seen here going for a return from the baseline during a local tournament in March this year, is one of the 11 CNMI junior players leaving for Fiji this weekend to compete in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI coach Jeff Race is looking for another impressive performance from the Commonwealth junior tennis players when they compete in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Race is bringing over eight CNMI players to Fiji to anchor the North Pacific Team's campaign in the POCJ. The list includes Christian Miller, Chris Cajigan, Negahr Rastguiy, Mikayla Lopez, Michael Ren, Luther Lizama, Isabel Heras, and Carol Lee. Joining the CNMI delegation are Tammy Ackerman and Rafael Jones, who are already in Fiji, and Thea Minor. Ackerman has been training at the Oceania Tennis Federation's regional training facility for about a year after getting

See RACE on Page 26

Balan rules Rota Cliff Fishing Derby

Thirty-eight fishermen from Guam, Saipan and Rota joined last weekend's 2012 Rota Cliff Fishing Derby, an annual signature event of the Northern Mariana Islands organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the municipality of Rota.

Top honors this year in the Biggest Fish category went to Melecio Balan, Jr. of Rota for his 8.01-lb bluefin trevally. He was followed by Xerxes Camacho with a 5.37-lb needle fish, Michael Dechaves with a 4.62-lb blackspot snapper, and Richard Taisacan with a 3.88-lb bluefin trevally.

Balan also topped the Most Weight Category, bringing in 31.20 lbs. He was followed by Olen Jacob (28.96 lbs), Reynaldo Castillo (24.47 lbs), and

See BALAN on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Melecio Balan, Jr., second from right, won top honors at the 2012 Rota Cliff Fishing Derby for Biggest Fish and Most Weight. He received $1,500 in combined prizes at the awards ceremony on July 29, 2012, at Rota Round House. From left are Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas, acting director of DL&R Rota Francisco Manglona, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, Balan, and Rota Municipal Council chair George Hocog.

Thundercats roar past Mean Machine

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Thundercats are up on their feet again, following a 10-1 spanking of the Mean Machine in their game in the boys U18 division of the 2012 Saipan Soccer School Summer Futsal League last Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

The Thundercats' demolition of Mean Machine came a few days after the former suffered a 3-9 defeat at the hands of the league-leading Astig. With the victory, the Thundercats improved to a 3-0-3 win-draw-loss record for third place in the team standings, while Mean Machine remained winless in six games. Astig Futsal (4-0-0) and IT&E (3-0-1) round out the field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Thundercats' Raphael Zapanta, right, in action during an earlier game against the Mean Machine in the U18 division of the SSS futsal league at the TSL Sports Complex. Zapanta scored two goals in their 10-1 rout of the Mean Machine last Monday.

Don Cabrera led the Thundercats' early recovery, scoring three goals in the first half. Raphael Zapanta and Makani Gramlich added two each, while Timothy Tawanpiy and Juanito Tiamzon chipped in one apiece. All of the Thundercats' goals were made in the first 25 minutes of the game and so far they have collected 21 goals—

See THUNDERCATS on Page 26

What's up with China's swimming success?

By JOHN LEICESTER
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

LONDON (AP)—What are they on? Or are they?

When Chinese swimmers started blowing rivals out of the water in London's Olympic pool, whispers quickly followed. Is China cheating the sport again, as it did in the 1990s, when drug-fueled, muscle-bound swimmers emerged from nowhere to beat the world? Alain Bernard, the 2008 Olympic freestyle champion from France, was among those who wondered.

"I'm for clean sport, without doping, and I truly hope the authorities in charge of this are doing their job in good conscience and really well," he said. "Unfortunately, I want to say that there is no smoke without fire. But today there is no proof to show that any Chinese has tested positive in this competition."

At a briefing Monday in London, reporters peppered Arne Ljungqvist, the International Olympic Committee's medical commission chairman, with questions about Ye Shiwen, China's 16-year-old swimming sensation. Ljungqvist said "it is very sad that an unexpected performance be surrounded by suspicions."

"Suspicion is halfway an accusation that something is wrong," Ljungqvist said. "I don't like that. I would rather

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